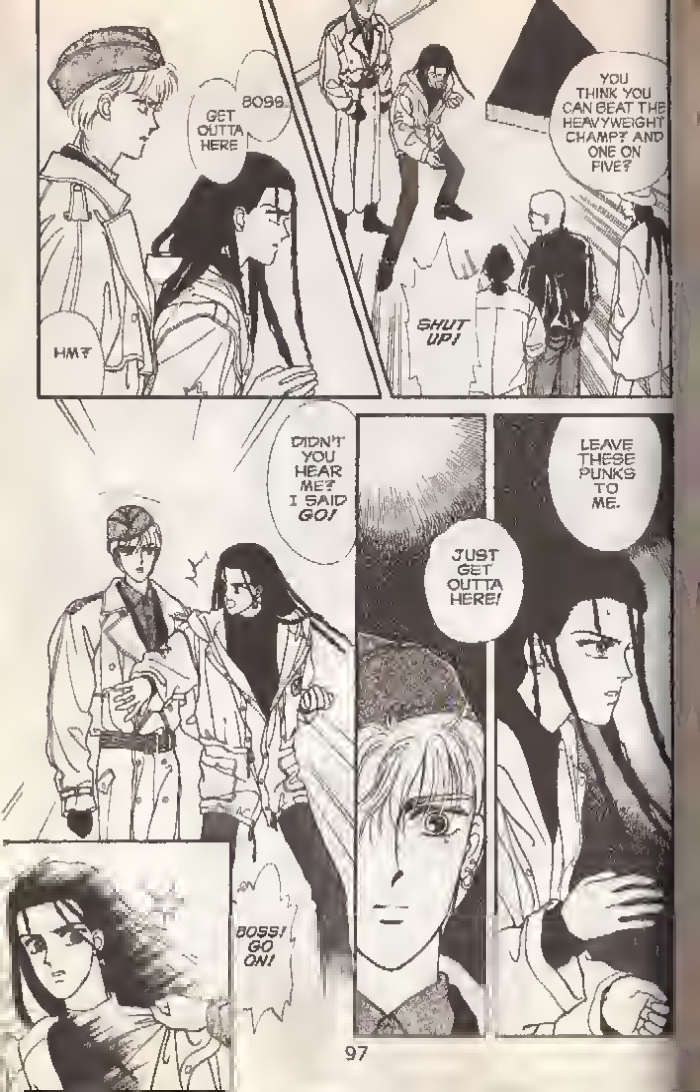
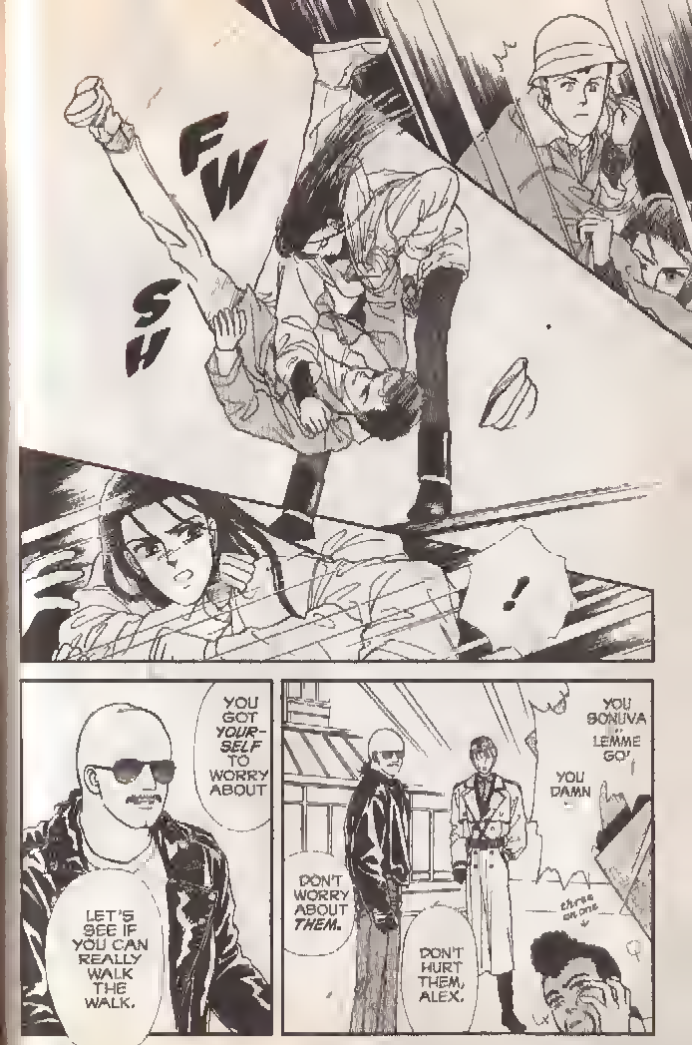
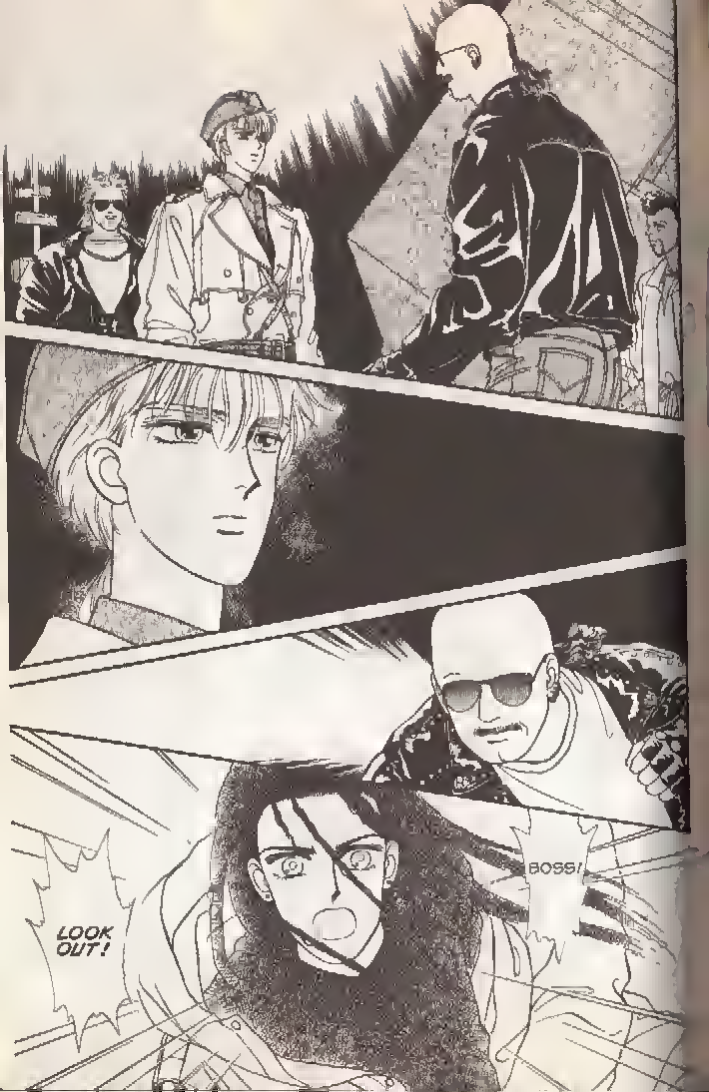
ALL RIGHT.
WHAT'LL IT TAKE TO SATISFY YOU?
BOSS! NO!
PLEASE DON'T DO THIS! THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN HANDLE THIS GUY!
I KNOW THEY LOOK LIKE BUMS, BUT THESE GUYS ARE ALL KARATE AND JUDO STUDENTS!
HA!
HE'S BUMS?

HUH?
I DIDN'T SAY I WAS GONNA FIGHT HIM
OH REALLY?
BOSS?!
I JUST SAID HE CAN DO WHATEVER HE NEEDS TO SATISFY HIMSELF.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE FIGHTING, AND I DON'T LIKE IT.
STOP MESSING AROUND! YOU THINK I'M GONNA LET YOU DO THIS?!
I'LL BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF EVERY ONE OF YA!
!
WHAP
OUT OF THE WAY, LEVINE.


HM?
BOSS
GET OUTTA HERE
SHUT UP!
YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP? AND ONE ON FIVE?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? I SAID GO!
JUST GET OUTTA HERE!
LEAVE THESE PUNKS TO ME.
BOSS! GO ON!


FW
SH
!
YOU GOT YOUR-SELF TO WORRY ABOUT
LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN REALLY WALK THE WALK.
YOU BONUVA.. LEMME GO!
YOU DAMN
chrrk
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM.
DON'T HURT THEM, ALEX.


LOOK OUT!
BOSS!

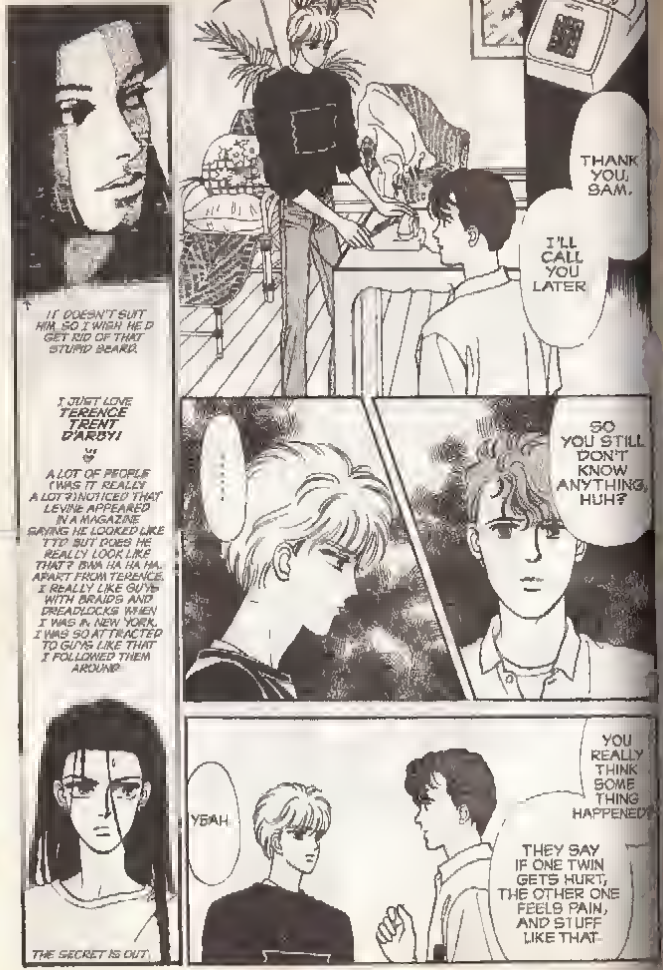
ROY!
CRASH
WH-WHAT IS IT?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
UGH ...

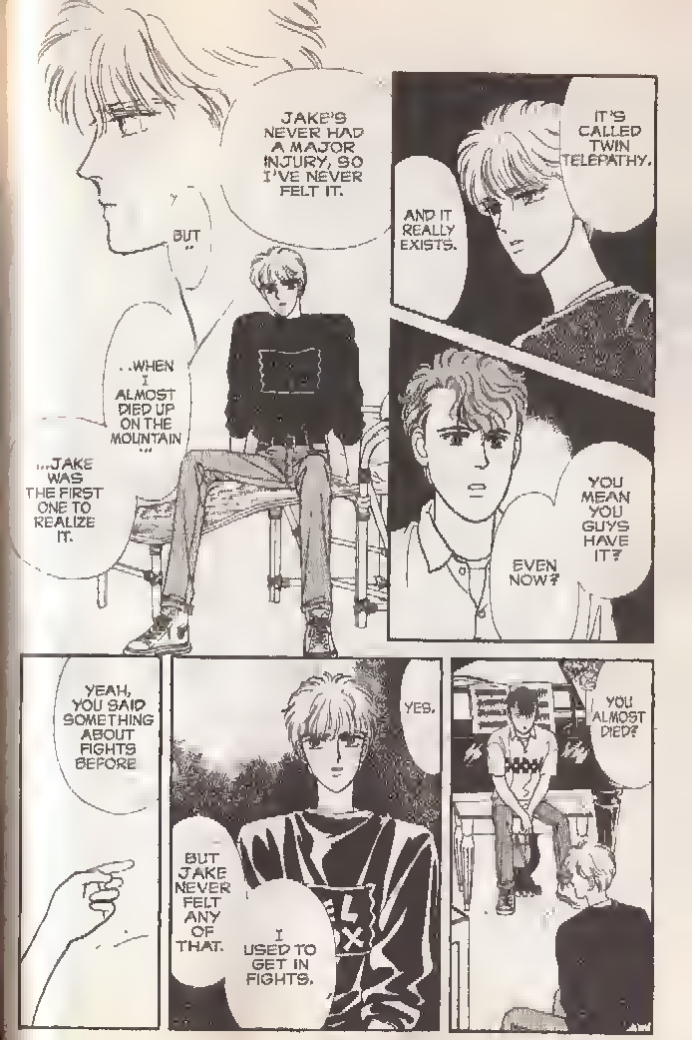
ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
..I FELT SOME KIND OF SHOCK.
AND?
I'M BETTER NOW.
WHAT THE HELL? ARE YOU JERKING ME AROUND?
WEIRD.
..I DEFINITELY FELT SOME-THING.
SORRY.
I BROKE A CUP.
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WAS?

NO WAY YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING.
EVEN IF YOU ARE TWINS, THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD--
UH, OKAY
I NEED TO USE YOUR PHONE.
CAN I MAKE A LONG DISTANCE PHONE CALL?
DEEP BEEP
COULD IT BE ,?
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED TO JAKE?
RING RING
AT LEAST LET ME KNOW YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
PLEASE PICK UP THE PHONE, JAKE.

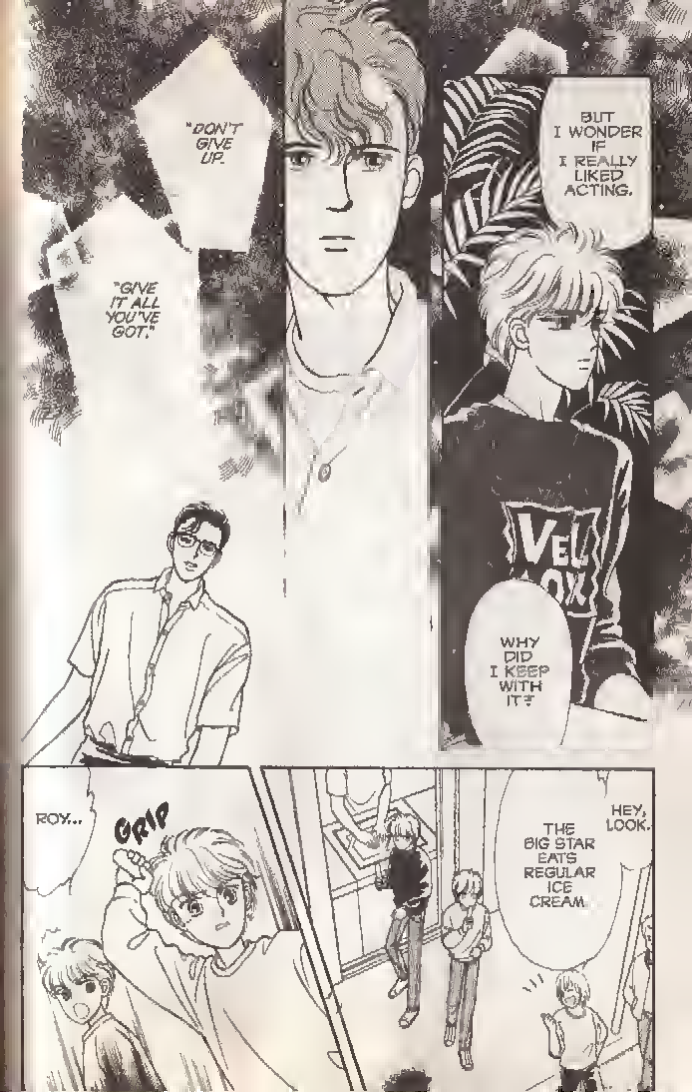
WELL?
YOUR BROTHER DIDN'T PICK UP?
RING RING
SHOULD I CALL ANISE?
WHAT DO I DO NOW?
THIS IS THE MURPHY'S WE'RE NOT HOME RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE
SURE
CAN I MAKE ANOTHER CALL?

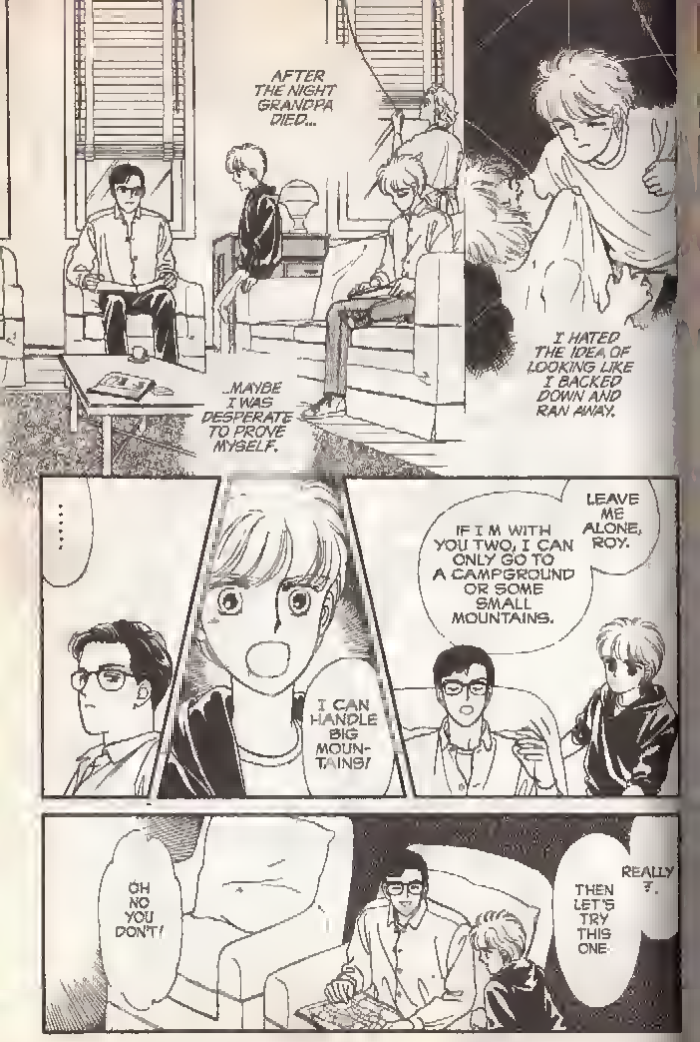
HAVE YOU GOT ANY MESSAGES FROM NEW YORK?
HI, SAM. THIS IS ROY. SORRY TO CALL YOU ON THE WEEKEND
THIS ONE IS LOCAL.
SORRY. JUST ONE MORE.
YES ACTUALLY. I GOT A CALL YESTERDAY
IS IT OKAY IF I LET SOMEONE IN NEW YORK HAVE YOUR ADDRESS?
I WAS ASKED FOR YOUR CONTACT INFO BY A GIRL NAMED ANISE.
SHE SOUNDED WORRIED
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN THERE?
DID SHE SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THINGS IN NEW YORK?
WELL, LET'S SEE..
..NO. SHE DIDN'T REALLY SAY ANY-THING

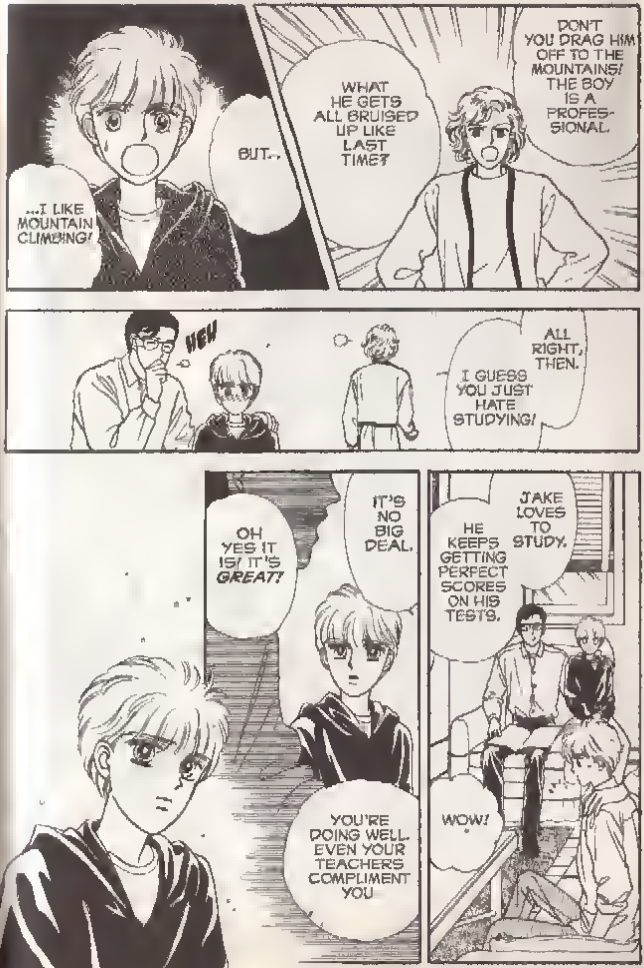

IT DOESN'T SUIT HIM SO I WISH HE'D GET RID OF THAT STUPID BEARD.
I JUST LOVE TERENCE TRENT D'ARBY!
A LOT OF PEOPLE (WAS IT REALLY A LOT?) NOTICED THAT LEVINE APPEARED IN A MAGAZINE SAYING HE LOOKED LIKE TTD. BUT DOES HE REALLY LOOK LIKE THAT? BWA HA HA HA. APART FROM TERENCE, I REALLY LIKE GUYS WITH BRAIDS AND DREADLOCKS. WHEN I WAS IN NEW YORK, I WAS SO ATTRACTED TO GUYS LIKE THAT. I FOLLOWED THEM AROUND!
THE SECRET IS OUT.
THANK YOU, SAM.
I'LL CALL YOU LATER.
SO YOU STILL DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, HUH?
YOU REALLY THINK SOMETHING HAPPENED?
YEAH.
THEY SAY IF ONE TWIN GETS HURT, THE OTHER ONE FEELS PAIN, AND STUFF LIKE THAT.

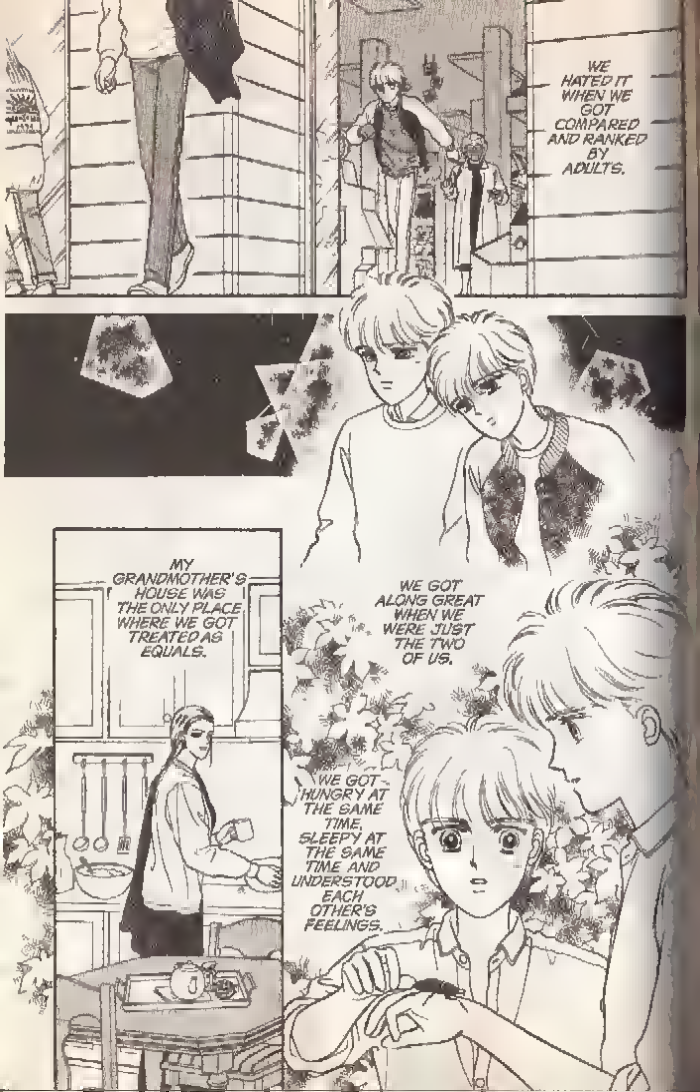

JAKE'S NEVER HAD A MAJOR INJURY, SO I'VE NEVER FELT IT.
BUT ..
..WHEN I ALMOST DIED UP ON THE MOUNTAIN ...
...JAKE WAS THE FIRST ONE TO REALIZE IT.
IT'S CALLED TWIN TELEPATHY.
AND IT REALLY EXISTS.
YOU MEAN YOU GUYS HAVE IT?
EVEN NOW?
YOU ALMOST DIED?
YES.
I USED TO GET IN FIGHTS.
BUT JAKE NEVER FELT ANY OF THAT.
YEAH, YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT FIGHTS BEFORE

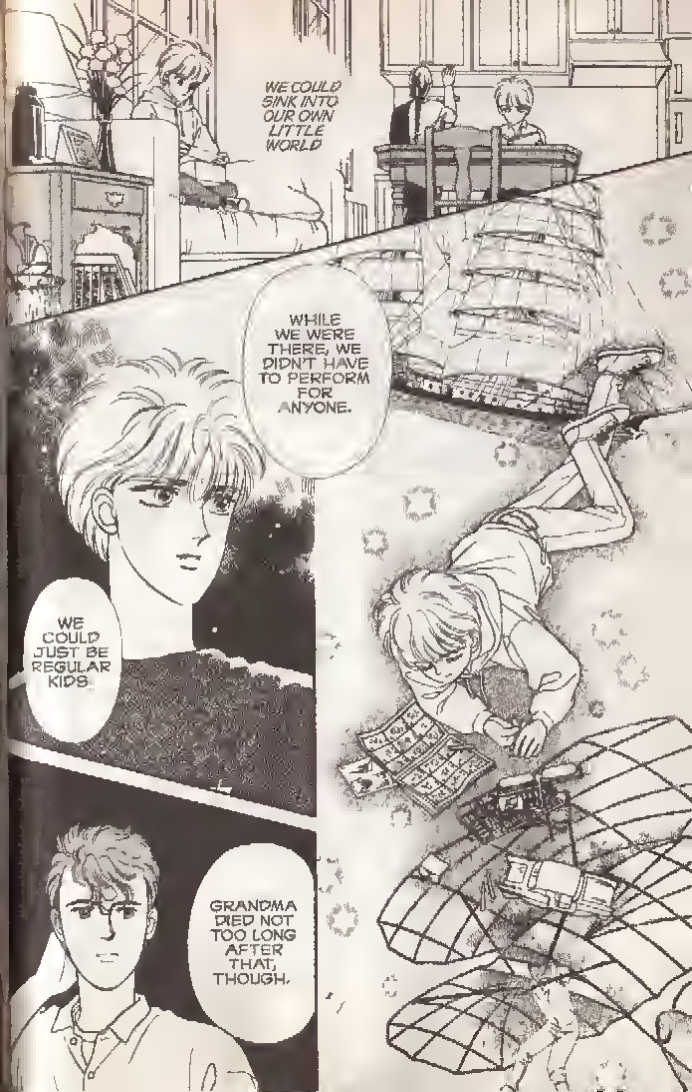
WELL...
...I WAS WHEN I FIRST STARTED GETTING MY FACE ON TV.
WHAT FOR?!
UH, BECAUSE...
...SOMETIMES I GOT PICKED ON.
SO HOW COULD YOU HAVE ALMOST NO EXPERIENCE PLAYING, AND YET HAVE SO MUCH EXPERIENCE FIGHTING?
SO YOU HAD TO FIGHT BACK.
THAT MAKES SENSE
I COULD UNDERSTAND IF YOU'D DONE SOMETHING WRONG, BUT THAT'S JUST SO UNFAIR!
MAN!
THAT KIND OF STUFF REALLY PISSES ME OFF!
YEAH. ALL DADS SAY THE SAME THING.
MY DAD SAID IF I LIKED ACTING, I SHOULDN'T BACK DOWN.


"DON'T GIVE UP.
"GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT."
BUT I WONDER IF I REALLY LIKED ACTING.
WHY DID I KEEP WITH IT?
ROY...
GRIP
HEY, LOOK.
THE BIG STAR EATS REGULAR ICE CREAM.


AFTER THE NIGHT GRANDPA DIED...
...MAYBE I WAS DESPERATE TO PROVE MYSELF.
I HATED THE IDEA OF LOOKING LIKE I BACKED DOWN AND RAN AWAY.
.....
I CAN HANDLE BIG MOUN-TAINS!
IF I'M WITH YOU TWO, I CAN ONLY GO TO A CAMPGROUND OR SOME SMALL MOUNTAINS.
LEAVE ME ALONE, ROY.
OH NO YOU DON'T!
THEN LET'S TRY THIS ONE.
REALLY ?.

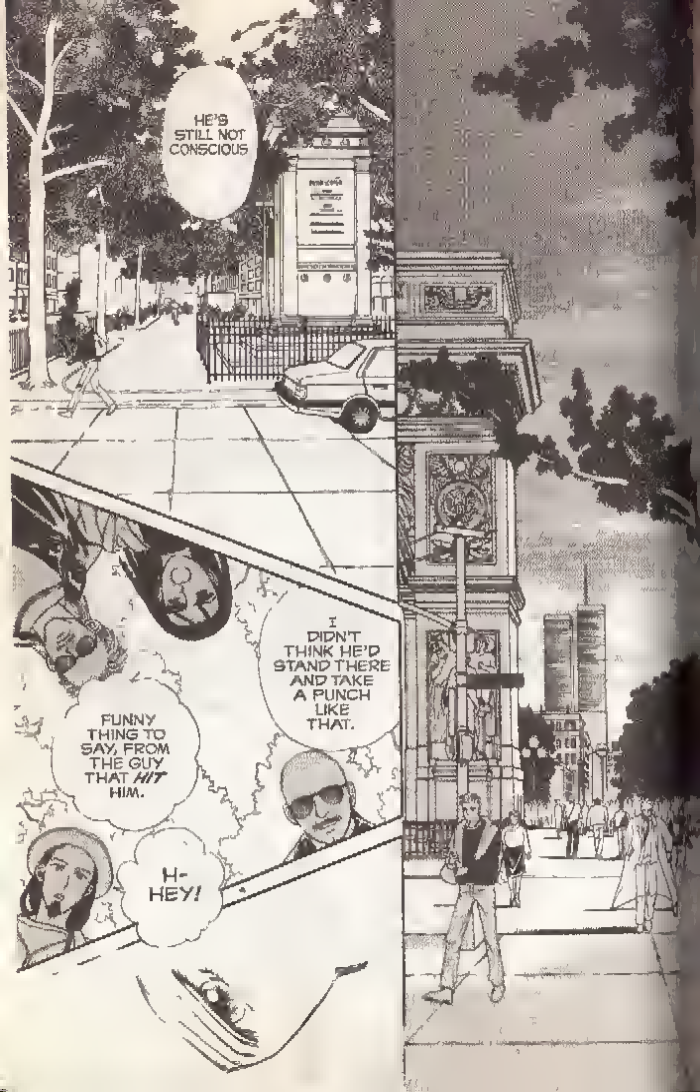

...I LIKE MOUNTAIN CLIMBING!
BUT...
WHAT HE GETS ALL BRUISED UP LIKE LAST TIME?
DON'T YOU DRAG HIM OFF TO THE MOUNTAINS! THE BOY IS A PROFESSIONAL.
HEH
I GUESS YOU JUST HATE STUDYING!
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
OH YES IT IS! IT'S GREAT!
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
YOU'RE DOING WELL. EVEN YOUR TEACHERS COMPLIMENT YOU.
HE KEEPS GETTING PERFECT SCORES ON HIS TESTS.
JAKE LOVES TO STUDY.
WOW!


WE HATED IT WHEN WE GOT COMPARED AND RANKED BY ADULTS.
MY GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE WAS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE WE GOT TREATED AS EQUALS.
WE GOT ALONG GREAT WHEN WE WERE JUST THE TWO OF US.
WE GOT HUNGRY AT THE SAME TIME, SLEEPY AT THE SAME TIME AND UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS.

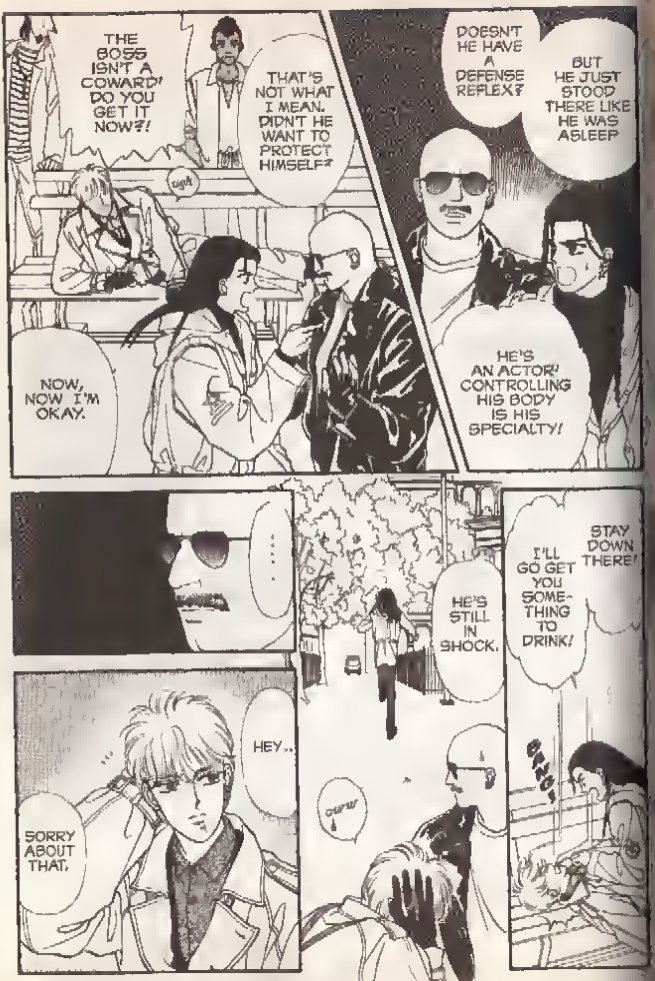

WE COULD SINK INTO OUR OWN LITTLE WORLD
WHILE WE WERE THERE, WE DIDN'T HAVE TO PERFORM FOR ANYONE.
WE COULD JUST BE REGULAR KIDS.
GRANDMA DIED NOT TOO LONG AFTER THAT, THOUGH.

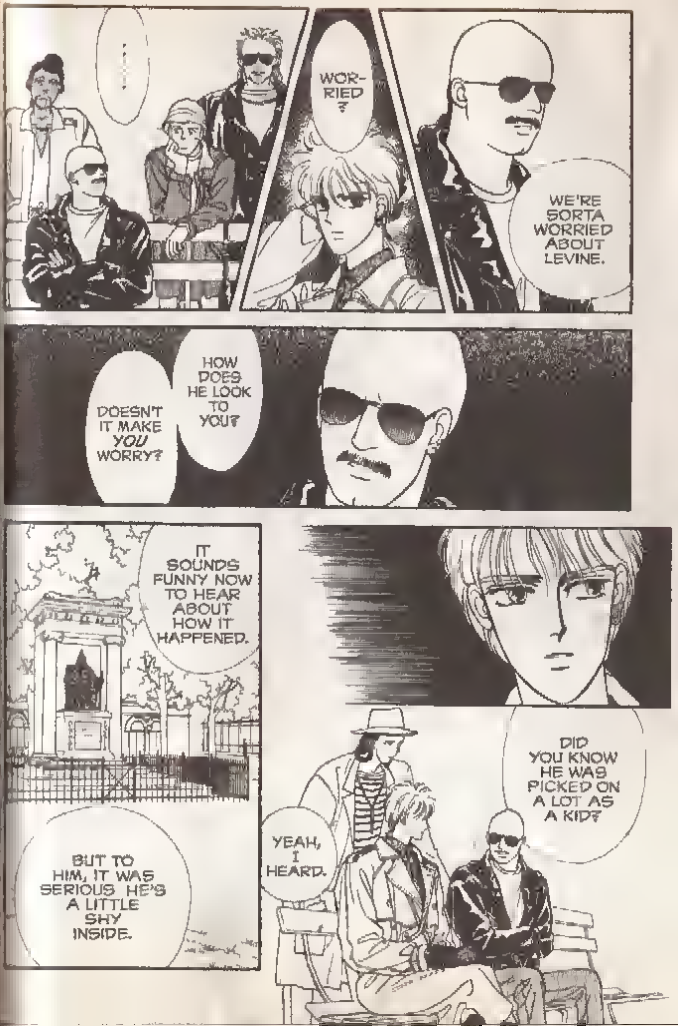
HEY!
TWINS
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE OF THEM DIES?
WHAT?
...THEN THE FACT THAT YOU'RE SITTING HERE JUST FINE MEANS YOUR BROTHER MUST BE OKAY, TOO.
IF YOU THINK LIKE THAT
DON'T BE SAYING CRAZY STUFF LIKE THAT!
HMM...
YOU CAN TRY CALLING AGAIN LATER.
YEAH
MAYBE SO.
GOOD., THANKS

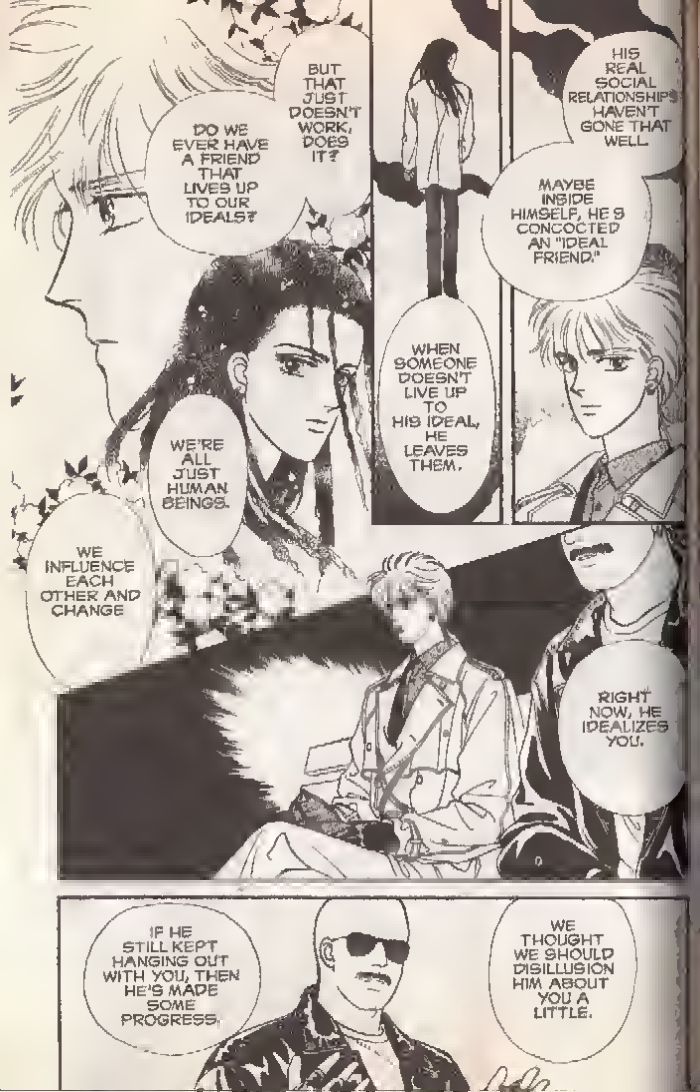
IS THIS GUY ALWAYS CONNECTED TO SOMEONE ELSE?
IS HE LIVING ON NEW YORK TIME?
EVEN WHILE HE'S HERE..


HE'S STILL NOT CONSCIOUS
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D STAND THERE AND TAKE A PUNCH LIKE THAT.
FUNNY THING TO SAY, FROM THE GUY THAT *HIT* HIM.
H-HEY!

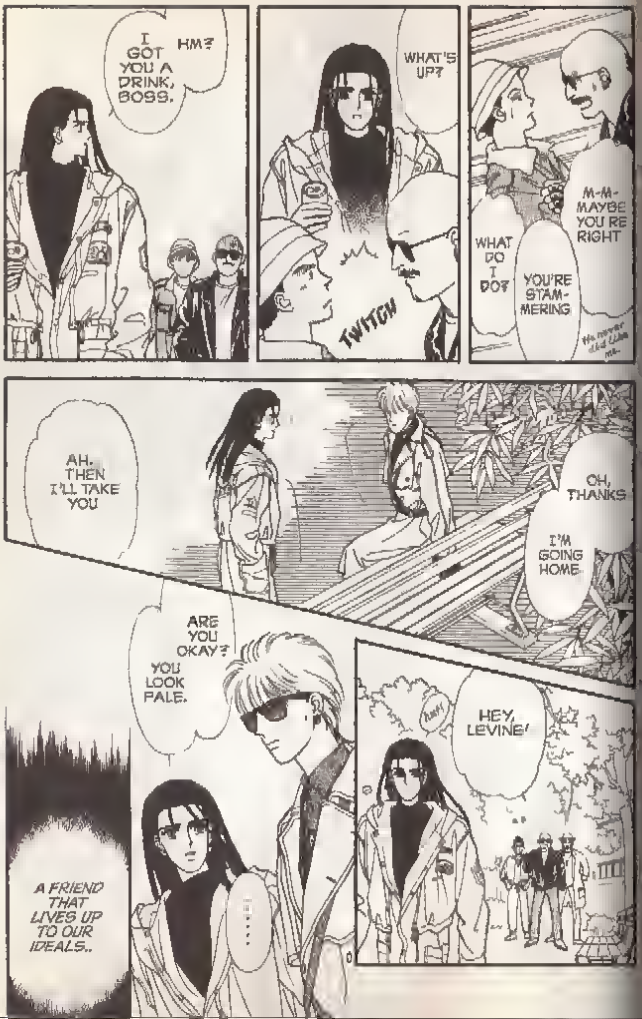
BOSS!
HE'S AWAKE!
ARE YOU OKAY, BOSS?
EH?
HUH? WAS ALL THAT A DREAM?
YOU REALLY RANG HIS BELL.
YOU HIT HIM TOO HARD, MAN
HEY... PEOPLE USUALLY TRY TO BLOCK OR SOMETHING.
WHAT A STRANGE DREAM...
DAMN... I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT.
MY CONSCIOUSNESS WAS INSIDE ROY
I COULD SEE THROUGH HIS EYES.

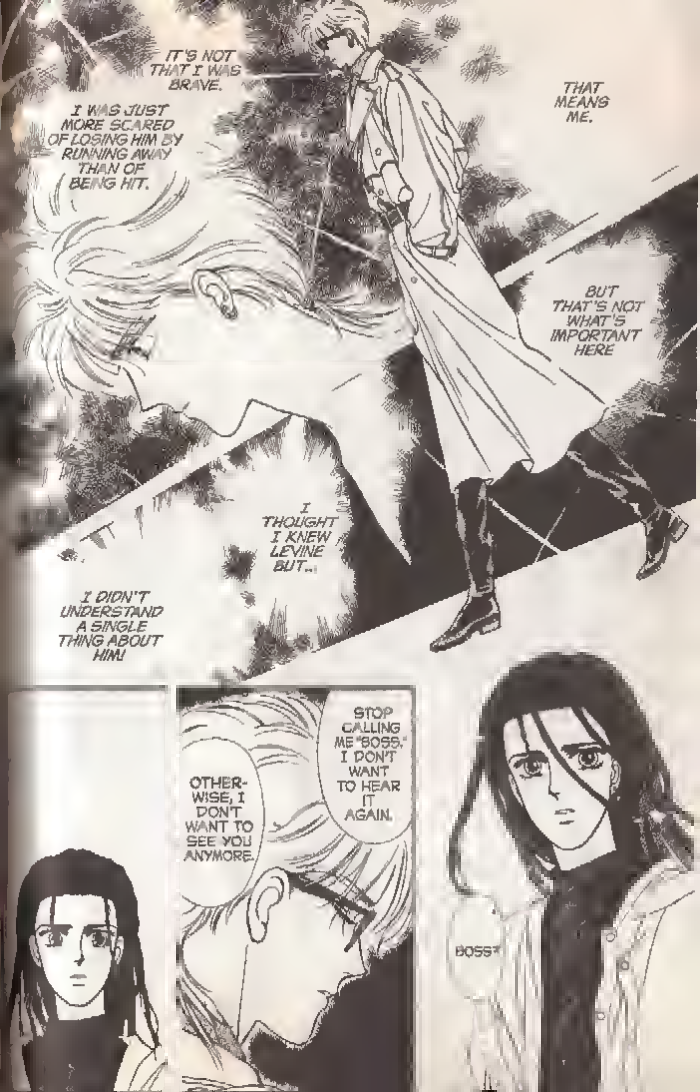

THE BOSS ISN'T A COWARD! DO YOU GET IT NOW?!
ugh
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. DIDN'T HE WANT TO PROTECT HIMSELF?
NOW, NOW I'M OKAY.
DOESN'T HE HAVE A DEFENSE REFLEX?
BUT HE JUST STOOD THERE LIKE HE WAS ASLEEP
HE'S AN ACTOR! CONTROLLING HIS BODY IS HIS SPECIALTY!
.....
HE'S STILL IN SHOCK.
I'LL GO GET YOU SOME-THING TO DRINK!
STAY DOWN THERE!
HEY..
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
CRW
CRW


...
WOR-RIED?
WE'RE SORTA WORRIED ABOUT LEVINE.
DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU WORRY?
HOW DOES HE LOOK TO YOU?
IT SOUNDS FUNNY NOW TO HEAR ABOUT HOW IT HAPPENED.
BUT TO HIM, IT WAS SERIOUS. HE'S A LITTLE SHY INSIDE.
YEAH, I HEARD.
DID YOU KNOW HE WAS PICKED ON A LOT AS A KID?


DO WE EVER HAVE A FRIEND THAT LIVES UP TO OUR IDEALS?
BUT THAT JUST DOESN'T WORK, DOES IT?
HIS REAL SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS HAVEN'T GONE THAT WELL.
MAYBE INSIDE HIMSELF, HE'S CONCOCTED AN "IDEAL FRIEND."
WHEN SOMEONE DOESN'T LIVE UP TO HIS IDEAL, HE LEAVES THEM.
WE'RE ALL JUST HUMAN BEINGS.
WE INFLUENCE EACH OTHER AND CHANGE
RIGHT NOW, HE IDEALIZES YOU.
IF HE STILL KEPT HANGING OUT WITH YOU, THEN HE'S MADE SOME PROGRESS.
WE THOUGHT WE SHOULD DISILLUSION HIM ABOUT YOU A LITTLE.

.....
THAT WAS UNEXPECTED.
BUT FOR YOU TO SHOW THAT KINDA STUPID COURAGE
UH.. SORT OF...
REALLY ARE WORRIED ABOUT LEVINE.
YOU GUYS ...
HA HA HA
ON THE OTHER HAND, HE'S PROBABLY TOTALLY SICK OF US.
WE JUST LOVE HAVING HIM AROUND.
HIS REACTIONS ARE SO HONEST.
THAT GUY STILL HAS A PURE, INNOCENT SOUL.
Yeah!

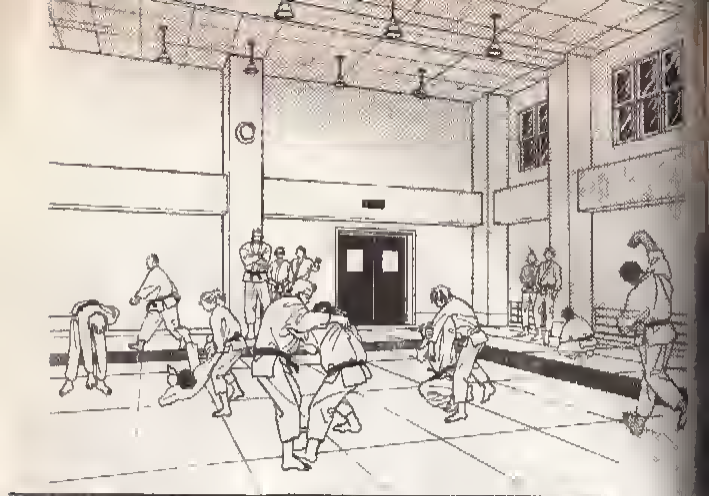

I GOT YOU A DRINK, BOSS.
HM?
WHAT'S UP?
TWITCH
M-M-MAYBE YOU RE RIGHT
WHAT DO I DO?
YOU'RE STAM-MERING
OH, THANKS
I'M GOING HOME
AH. THEN I'LL TAKE YOU
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK PALE.
HEY, LEVINE!
A FRIEND THAT LIVES UP TO OUR IDEALS..


IT'S NOT THAT I WAS BRAVE.
I WAS JUST MORE SCARED OF LOSING HIM BY RUNNING AWAY THAN OF BEING HIT.
THAT MEANS ME.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT'S IMPORTANT HERE
I THOUGHT I KNEW LEVINE BUT...
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A SINGLE THING ABOUT HIM!
OTHER-WISE, I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU ANYMORE.
STOP CALLING ME "BOSS." I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT AGAIN.
BOSS?

BOSS?!
LEAVE ME ALONE FOR A WHILE.

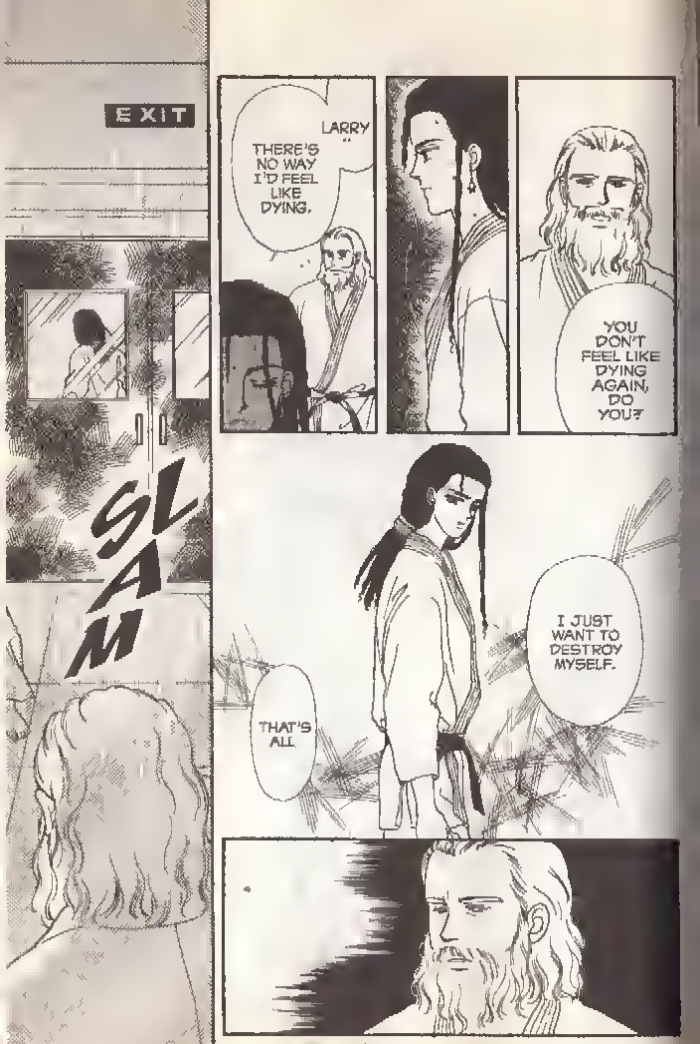
YAH!

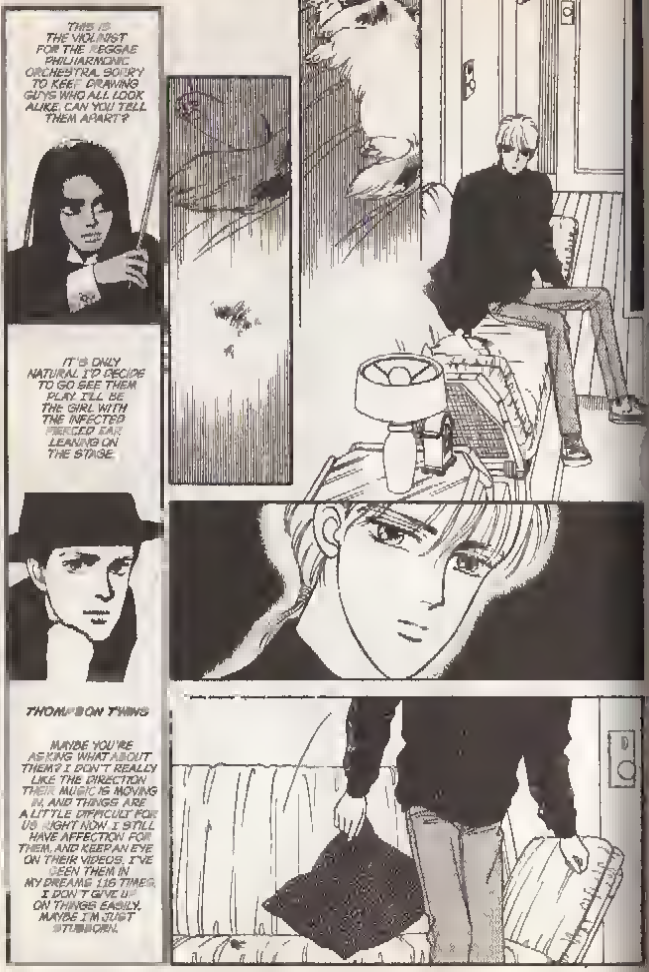
THE
JUDO

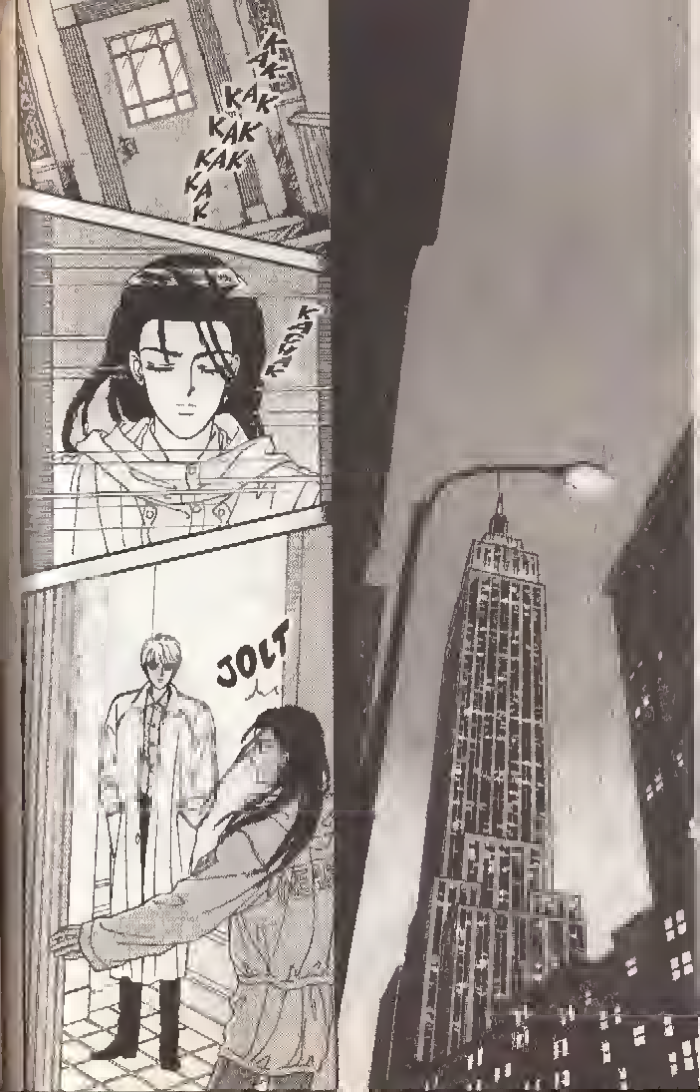


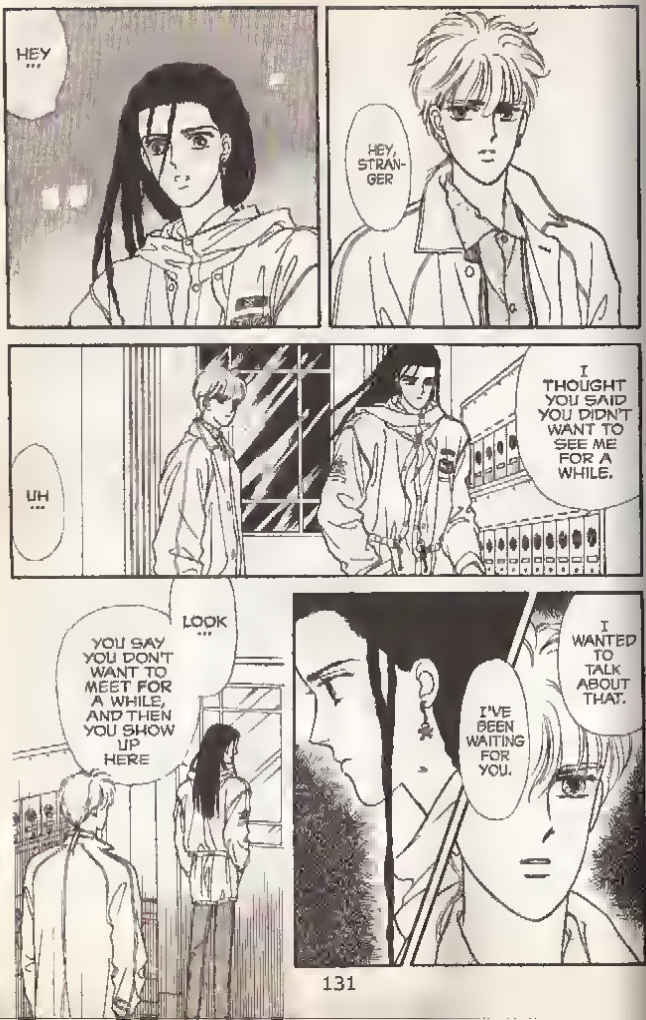
NICE WORK-OUT.
THWP

LARRY.
YOU SEEM RESTLESS LATELY.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND J.B.'S BOYS?
WORRIED?
WHY WORRY ABOUT ME? I...
DID YOU KNOW THAT?
THEY'RE PRETTY WORRIED ABOUT YOU
HEY, HEY NO MAN IS AN ISLAND.
.....

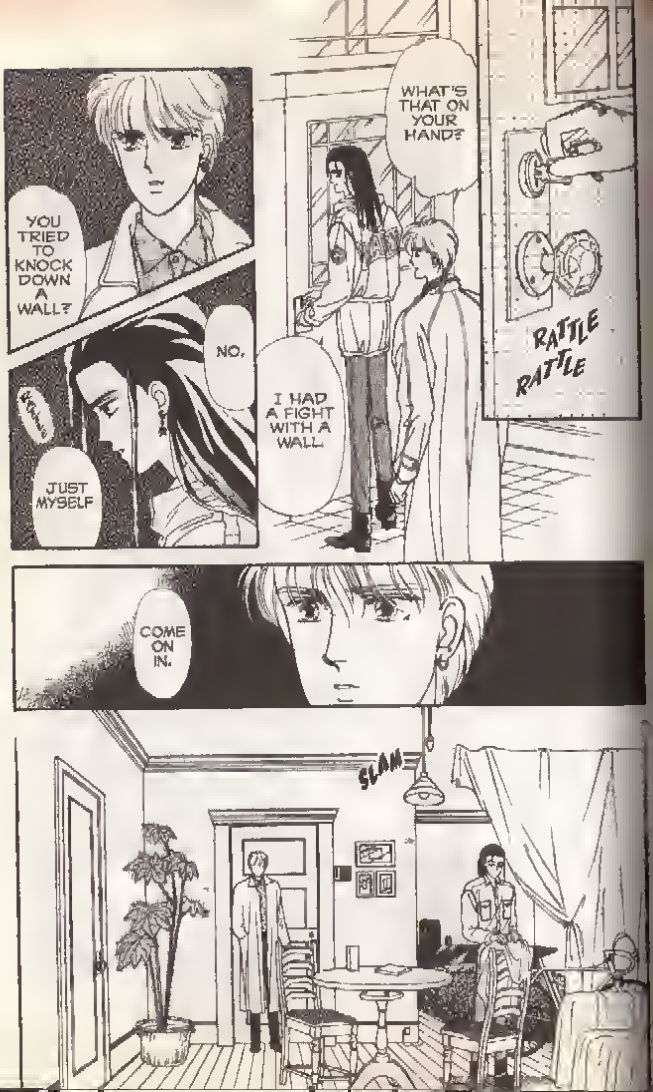

EXIT
SLAM
LARRY
THERE'S NO WAY I'D FEEL LIKE DYING.
YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE DYING AGAIN, DO YOU?
I JUST WANT TO DESTROY MYSELF.
THAT'S ALL

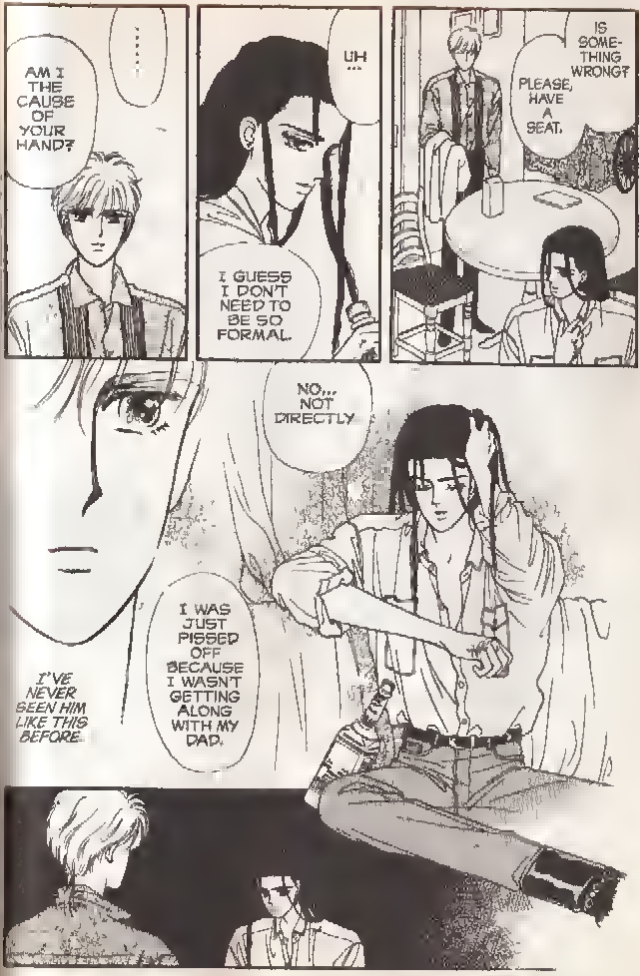

THIS IS THE VIOLINIST FOR THE LEGGIE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. SORRY TO KEEP DRAWING GUYS WHO ALL LOOK ALIKE. CAN YOU TELL THEM APART?
IT'S ONLY NATURAL I'D DECIDE TO GO SEE THEM PLAY. I'LL BE THE GIRL WITH THE INFECTED PIERCED EAR LEANING ON THE STAGE.
THOMAS ON THINGS
MAYBE YOU'RE ASKING WHAT ABOUT THEM? I DON'T REALLY LIKE THE DIRECTION THEIR MUSIC IS MOVING IN, AND THINGS ARE A LITTLE DIFFICULT FOR US RIGHT NOW. I STILL HAVE AFFECTION FOR THEM, AND KEEP AN EYE ON THEIR VIDEOS. I'VE BEEN THEM IN MY DREAMS 116 TIMES. I DON'T GIVE UP ON THINGS EASILY. MAYBE I'M JUST STUBBORN.

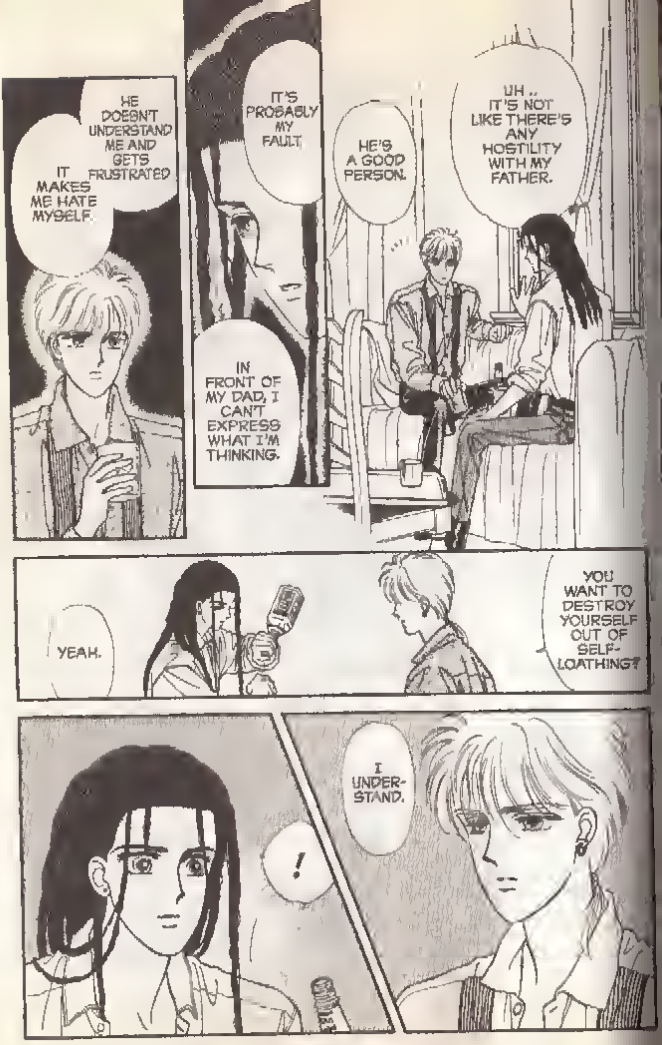

KAK
KAK
KAK
KAK
KAK
KACHA
JOLT


HEY ...
HEY, STRANGER
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME FOR A WHILE.
UH ...
LOOK ...
YOU SAY YOU DON'T WANT TO MEET FOR A WHILE, AND THEN YOU SHOW UP HERE
I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT THAT.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

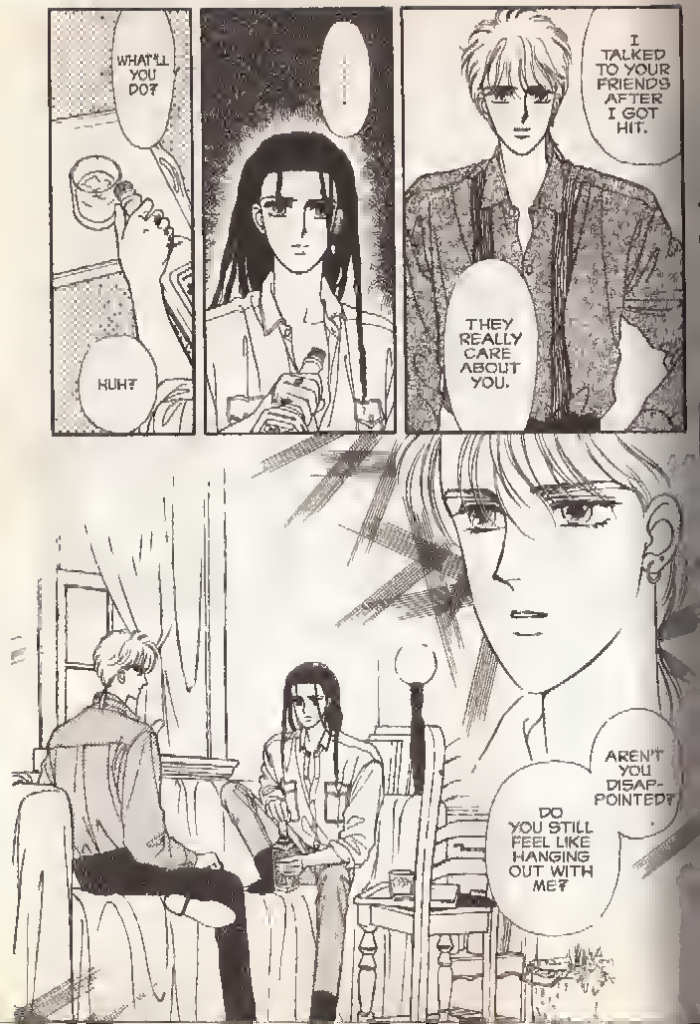
YOU DON'T EVEN THINK OF OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS.
IT'S SELFISH.
WHAT AM I SAYING?
I'M JUST VENTING SORRY
OH, MAN..
I DIDN'T MEAN TO KNOCK YOU DOWN, TOO.
KNOCK ME DOWN?

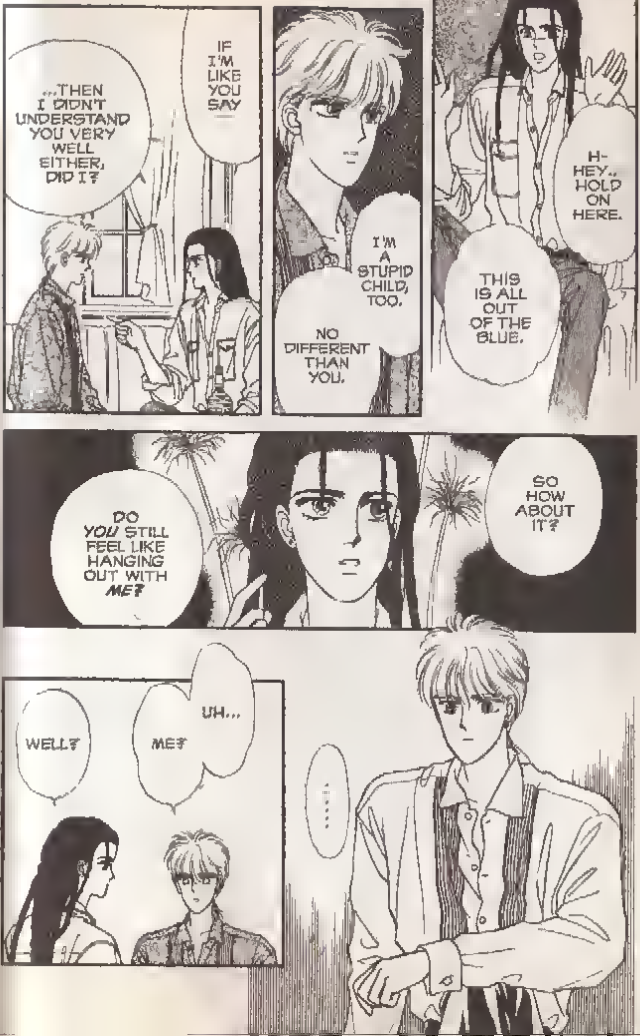

WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR HAND?
RATTLE RATTLE
I HAD A FIGHT WITH A WALL.
NO.
YOU TRIED TO KNOCK DOWN A WALL?
JUST MYSELF
COME ON IN.
SLAM


AM I THE CAUSE OF YOUR HAND?
.....
UH ...
I GUESS I DON'T NEED TO BE SO FORMAL.
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.
NO,,, NOT DIRECTLY.
I WAS JUST PISSED OFF BECAUSE I WASN'T GETTING ALONG WITH MY DAD.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS BEFORE.

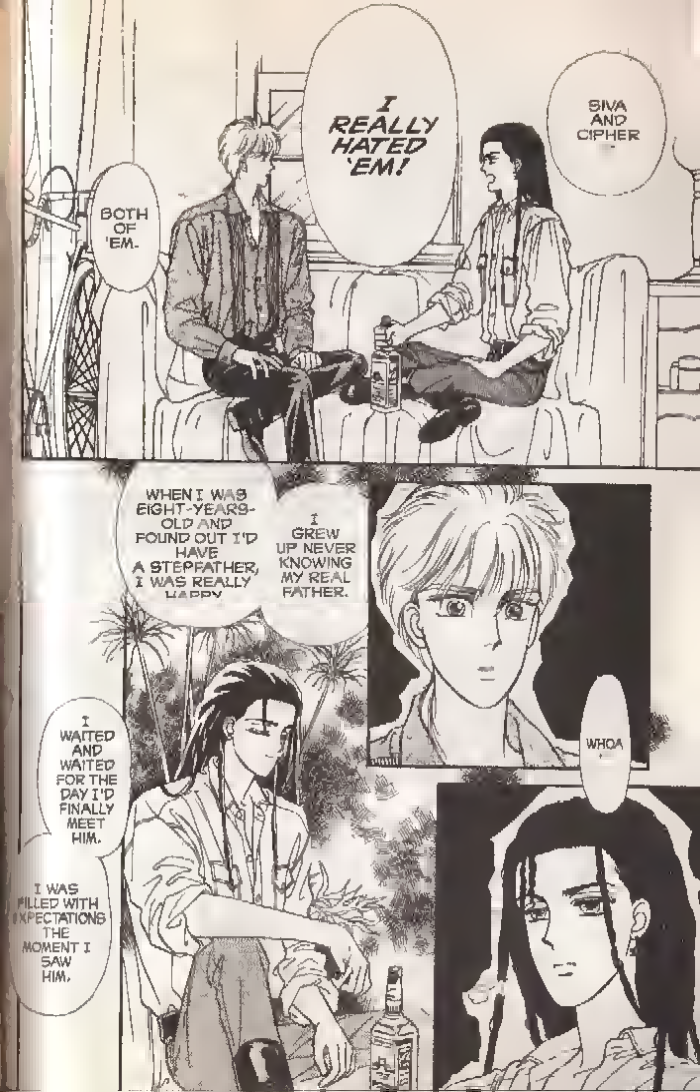

HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ME AND GETS FRUSTRATED
IT MAKES ME HATE MYSELF.
IT'S PROBABLY MY FAULT.
IN FRONT OF MY DAD, I CAN'T EXPRESS WHAT I'M THINKING.
HE'S A GOOD PERSON.
UH .. IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANY HOSTILITY WITH MY FATHER.
YEAH.
YOU WANT TO DESTROY YOURSELF OUT OF SELF-LOATHING?
!
I UNDER-STAND.

I KNEW I NEEDED SOMEONE "LIKE YOU."
BUT I NEVER EVEN TRIED TO UNDERSTAND WHO "YOU YOURSELF" WAS.
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID... I'M SELFISH.
SORRY
WHY WOULD YOU...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D
OH, CUT IT OUT.
I'M SUCH A CHILD
.....
WHERE'S THIS COMING FROM?
KLAK

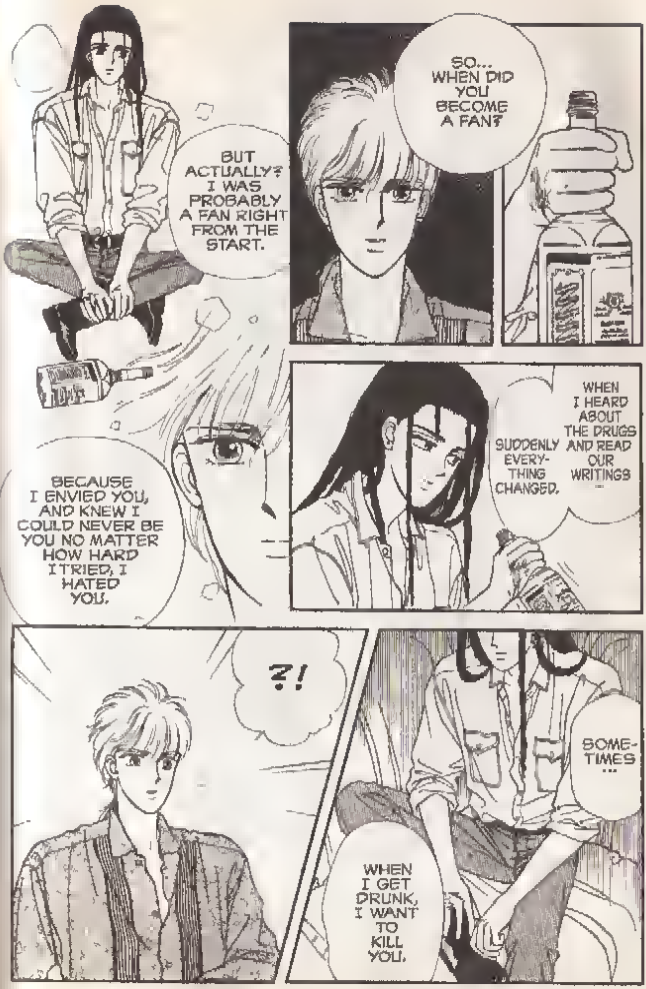

WHAT'LL YOU DO?
HUH?
I TALKED TO YOUR FRIENDS AFTER I GOT HIT.
THEY REALLY CARE ABOUT YOU.
DO YOU STILL FEEL LIKE HANGING OUT WITH ME?
AREN'T YOU DISAP-POINTED?

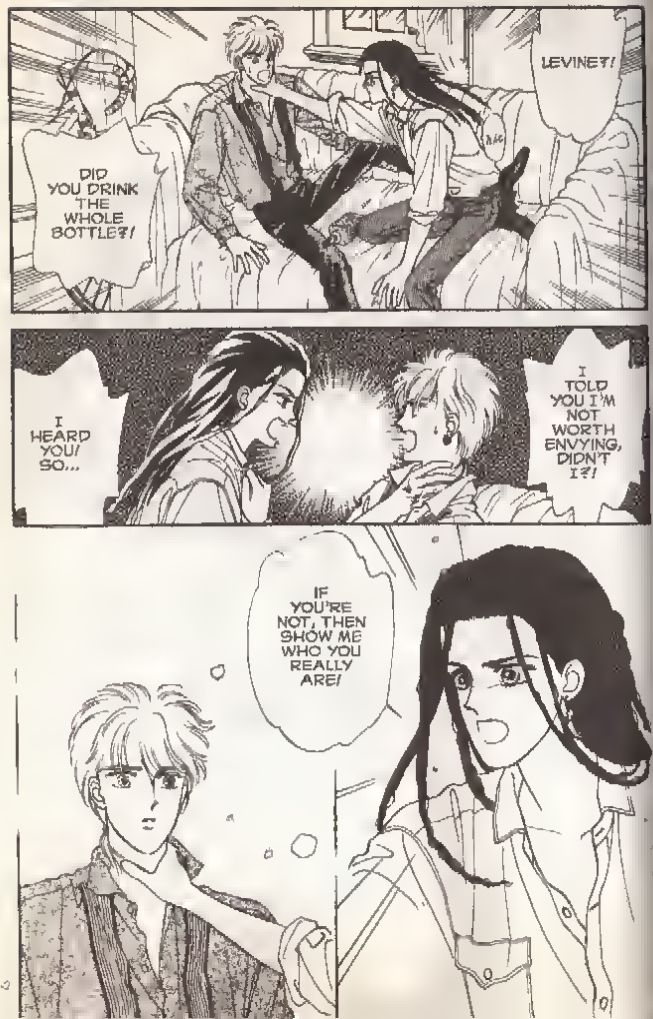

H-HEY.. HOLD ON HERE.
THIS IS ALL OUT OF THE BLUE.
I'M A STUPID CHILD, TOO.
NO DIFFERENT THAN YOU.
IF I'M LIKE YOU SAY
...THEN I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND YOU VERY WELL EITHER, DID I?
SO HOW ABOUT IT?
DO *YOU* STILL FEEL LIKE HANGING OUT WITH *ME*?
.....
UH...
ME?
WELL?

WAIT A SEC... I'M A LITTLE CONFUSED.
I WASN'T REALLY EXPECTING THIS CONVERSATION TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS.
I FEEL THE SAME WAY.
GLUG
I CAN SAY IT NOW ...
ACTUALLY, LONG AGO...
THUD

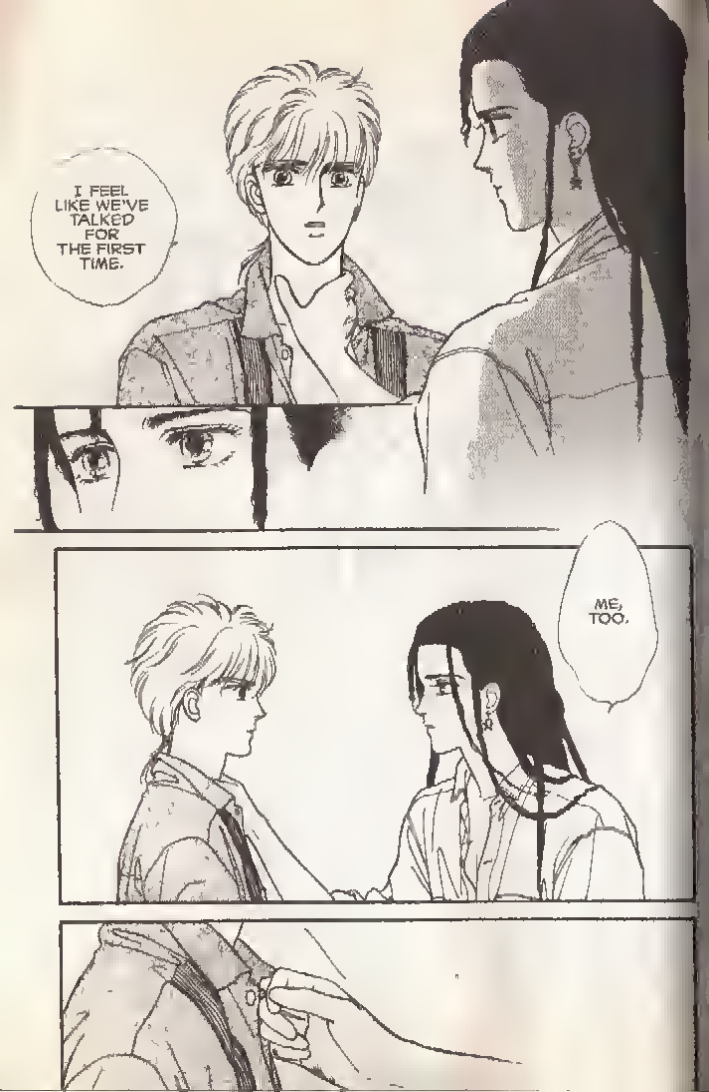

BOTH OF 'EM.
I REALLY HATED 'EM!
SIVA AND CIPHER
WHEN I WAS EIGHT-YEARS-OLD AND FOUND OUT I'D HAVE A STEPFATHER, I WAS REALLY HAPPY
I GREW UP NEVER KNOWING MY REAL FATHER.
I WAITED AND WAITED FOR THE DAY I'D FINALLY MEET HIM.
I WAS FILLED WITH EXPECTATIONS THE MOMENT I SAW HIM.
WHOA

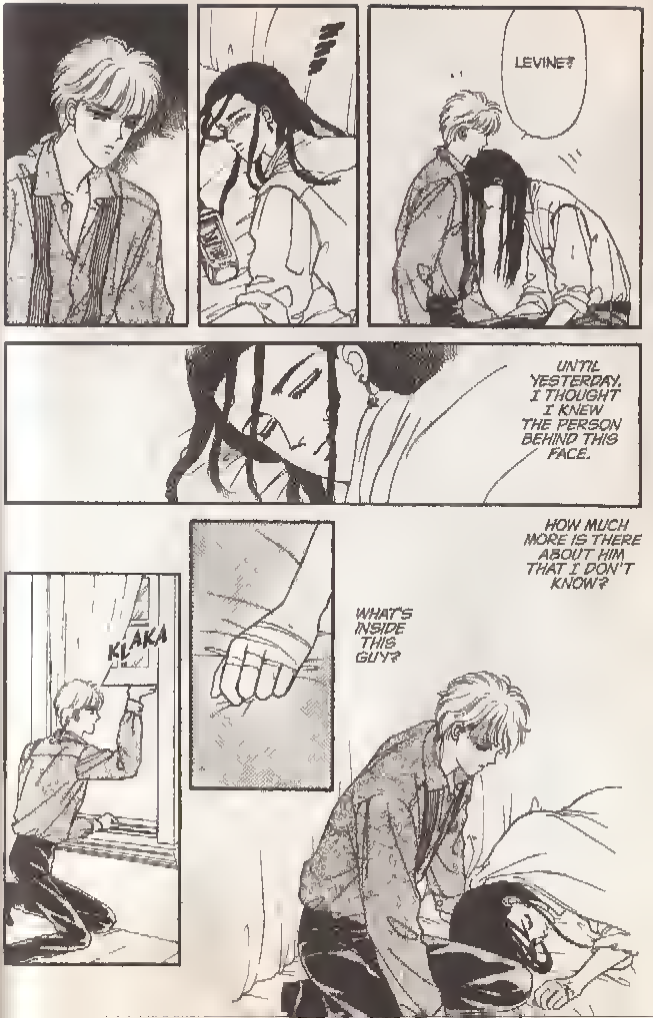
AND ...
...HIS FAVORITE TV PROGRAM WAS YOUR "THE WALTON FAMILY."
MY NEW FATHER DIDN'T THINK I LOOKED LIKE A BOY.
THAT SET THE TONE OR OUR WHOLE RELATION-SHIP.
AND THEN HE SAID ...
"I'D HEARD YOU WERE A BOY."
YOU TWO WERE BRAVE, SMART AND ENERGETIC.
YOU PLAYED THE BOYS EVERY FATHER IN AMERICA WOULD WANT.
EVEN MY FATHER THOUGHT YOU WERE IDEAL SONS.
I HATED WATCHING THAT SHOW.
I WANTED TO ERASE MYSELF.


BUT ACTUALLY? I WAS PROBABLY A FAN RIGHT FROM THE START.
SO... WHEN DID YOU BECOME A FAN?
BECAUSE I ENVIED YOU, AND KNEW I COULD NEVER BE YOU NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED, I HATED YOU.
SUDDENLY EVERY-THING CHANGED.
WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE DRUGS AND READ OUR WRITINGS
?!
SOME-TIMES ...
WHEN I GET DRUNK, I WANT TO KILL YOU.

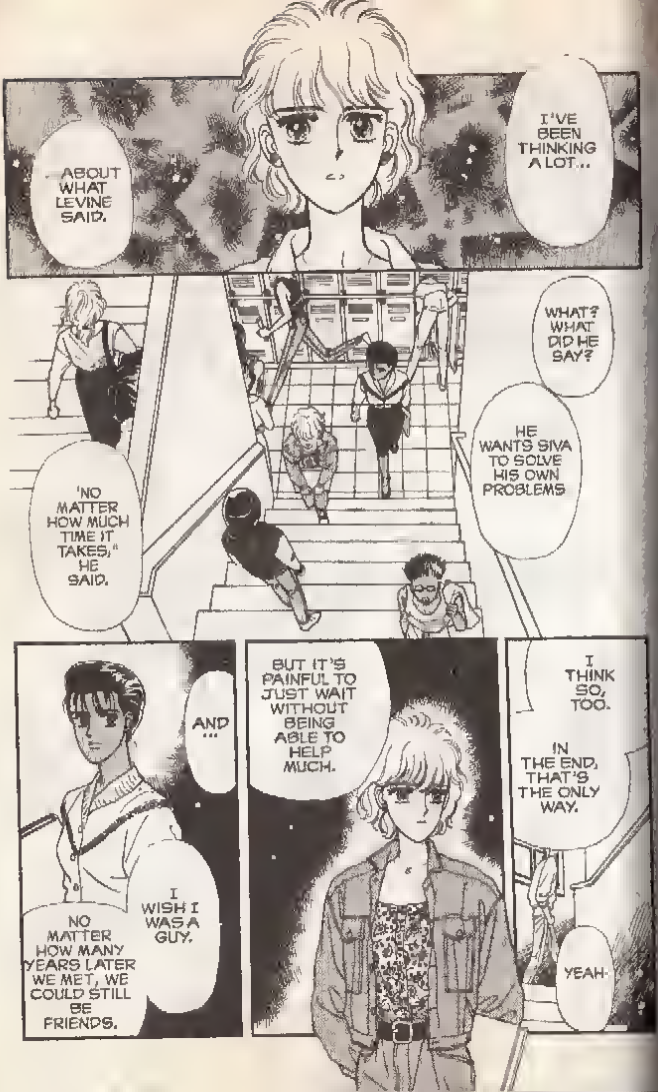

LEVINE?!
DID YOU DRINK THE WHOLE BOTTLE?!
I TOLD YOU I'M NOT WORTH ENVYING, DIDN'T I?!
I HEARD YOU/ SO...
IF YOU'RE NOT, THEN SHOW ME WHO YOU REALLY ARE!

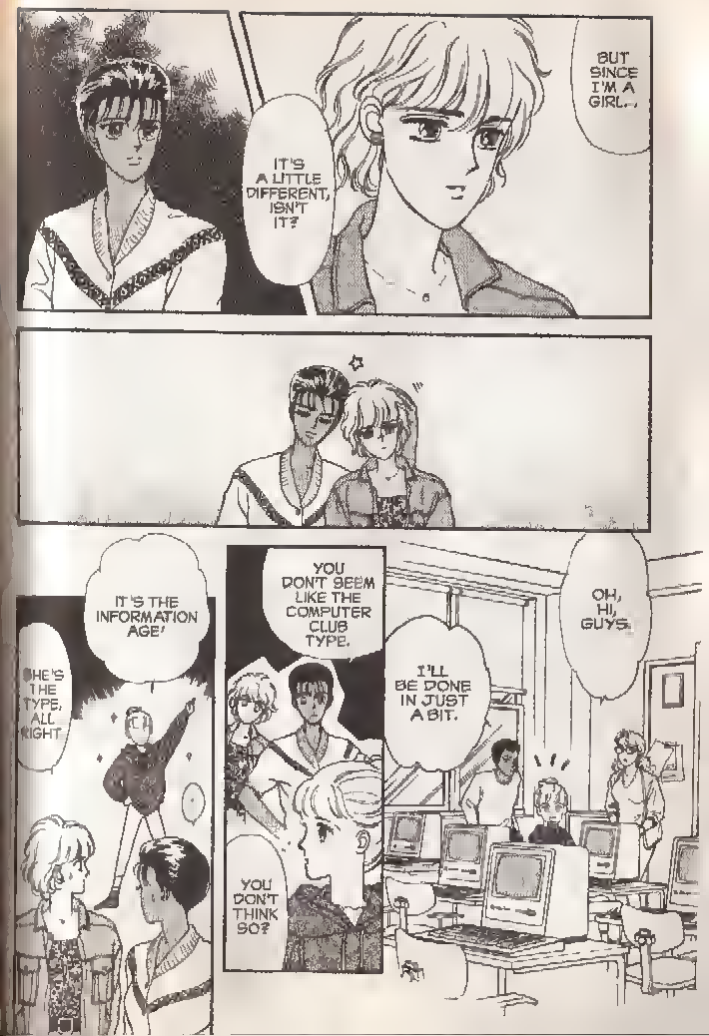
IF YOU'RE NOT, THEN SAY IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
I REALLY WANT TO KNOW IT!
FUNNY... YOU'RE PLAYING THIS PART ALL WRONG, "SIVA."
YOU DON'T HAVE THE EXPRESSION OF SOMEONE ABOUT TO BE KILLED.

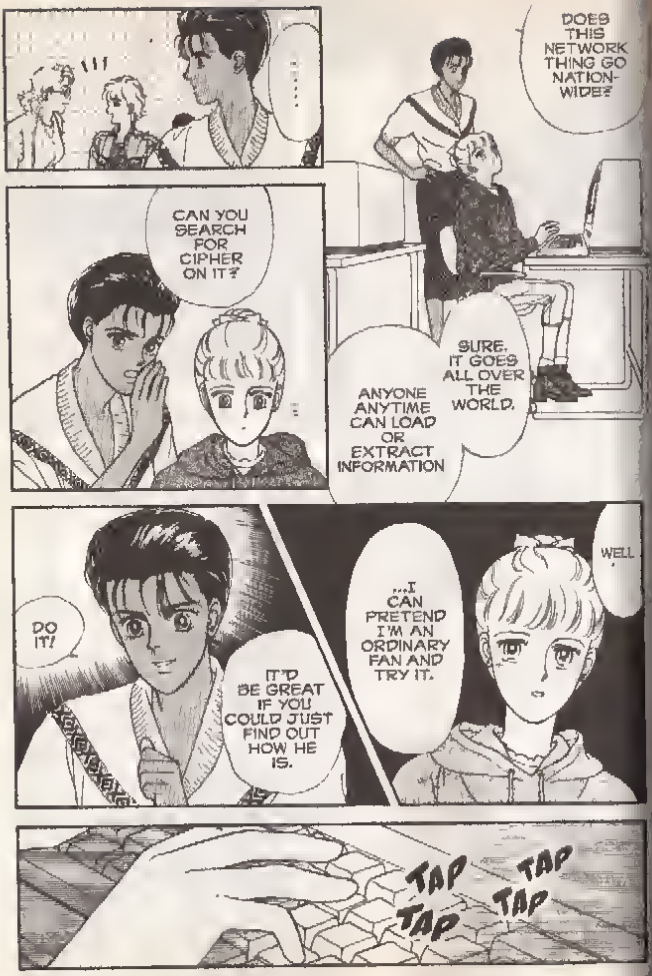

I FEEL LIKE WE'VE TALKED FOR THE FIRST TIME.
ME, TOO.

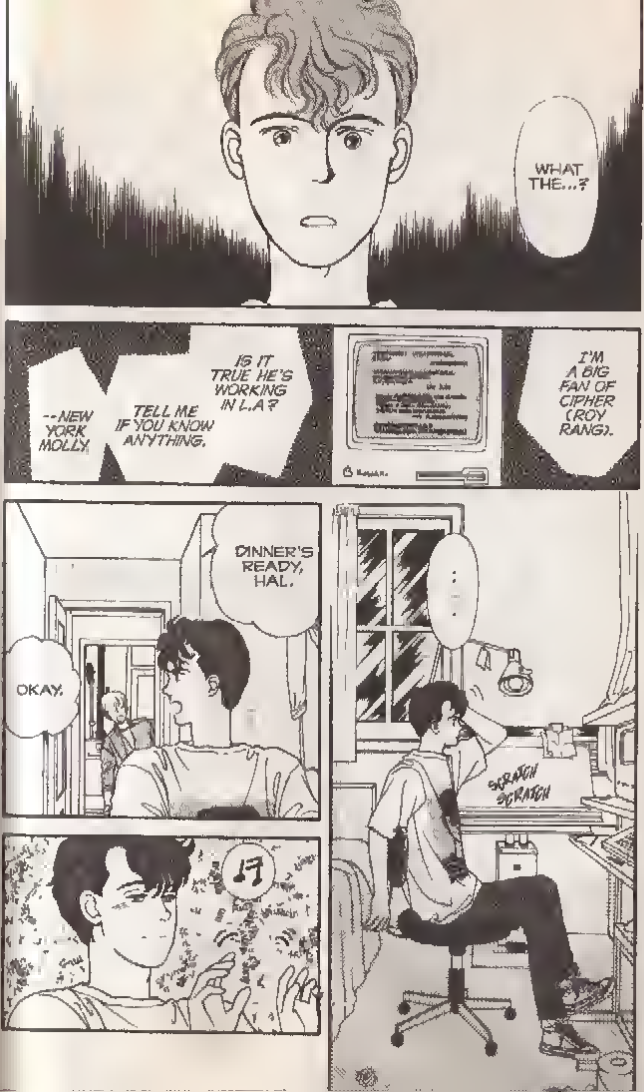

LEVINE?
UNTIL YESTERDAY, I THOUGHT I KNEW THE PERSON BEHIND THIS FACE.
HOW MUCH MORE IS THERE ABOUT HIM THAT I DON'T KNOW?
WHAT'S INSIDE THIS GUY?
KLAKA

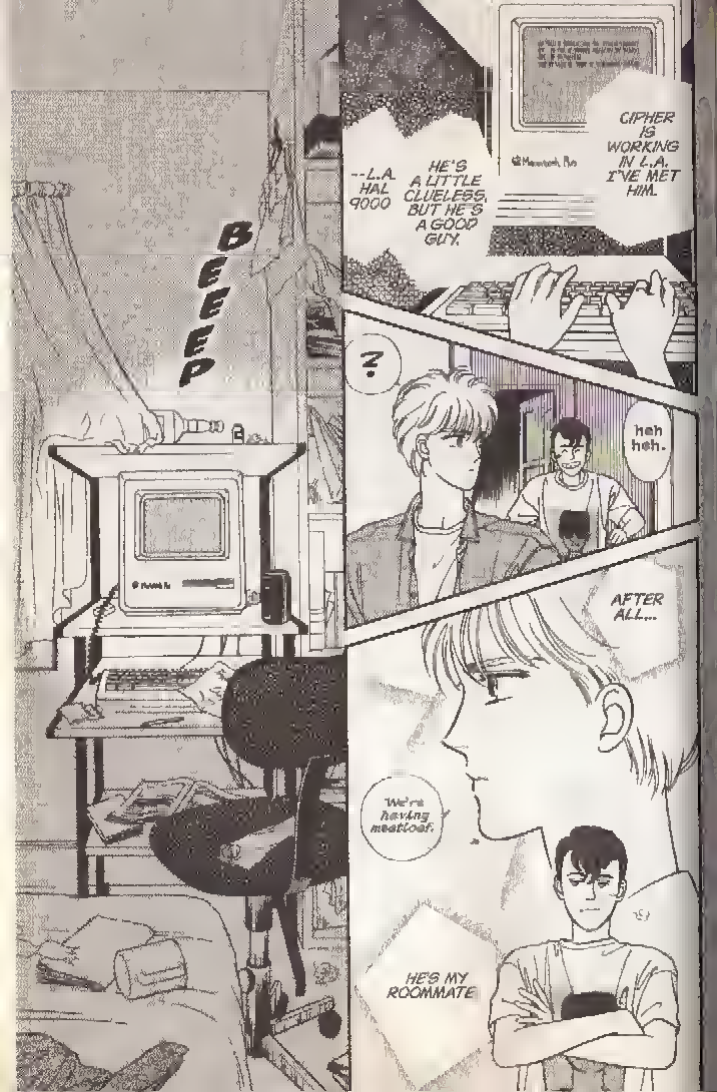
I'M...
I'M NOT THE ONLY PERSON IN THIS WORLD.
CLANG

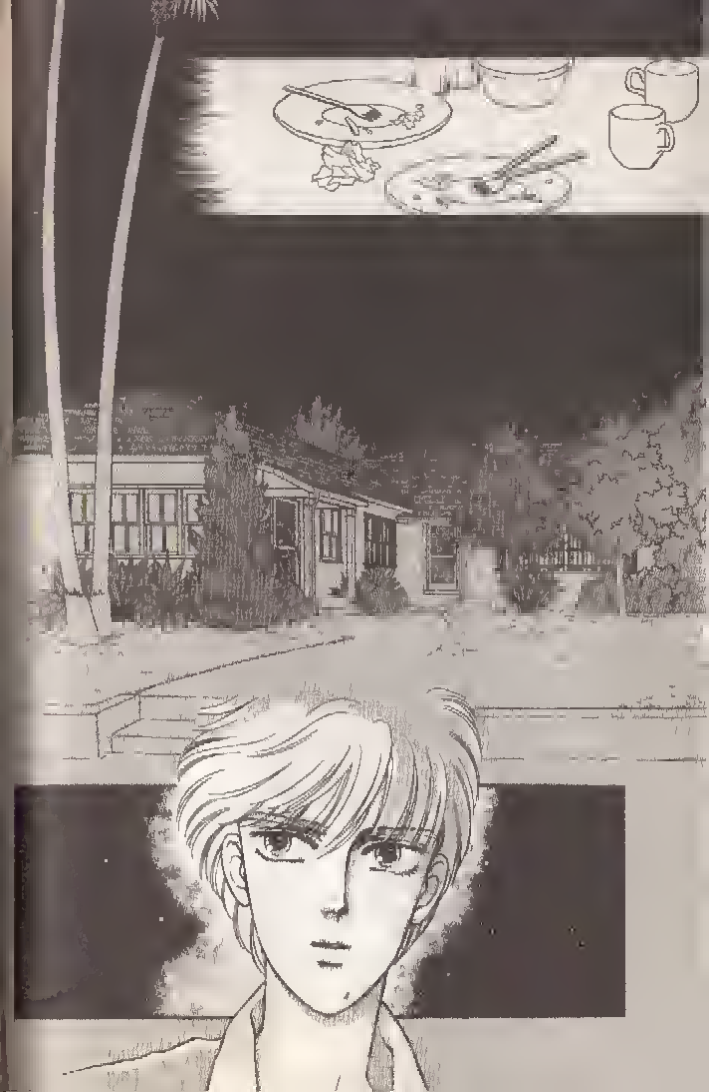

I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT...
ABOUT WHAT LEVINE SAID.
WHAT? WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE WANTS SIVA TO SOLVE HIS OWN PROBLEMS
'NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME IT TAKES," HE SAID.
I THINK SO, TOO.
IN THE END, THAT'S THE ONLY WAY.
BUT IT'S PAINFUL TO JUST WAIT WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO HELP MUCH.
YEAH.
AND ...
I WISH I WAS A GUY.
NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS LATER WE MET, WE COULD STILL BE FRIENDS.

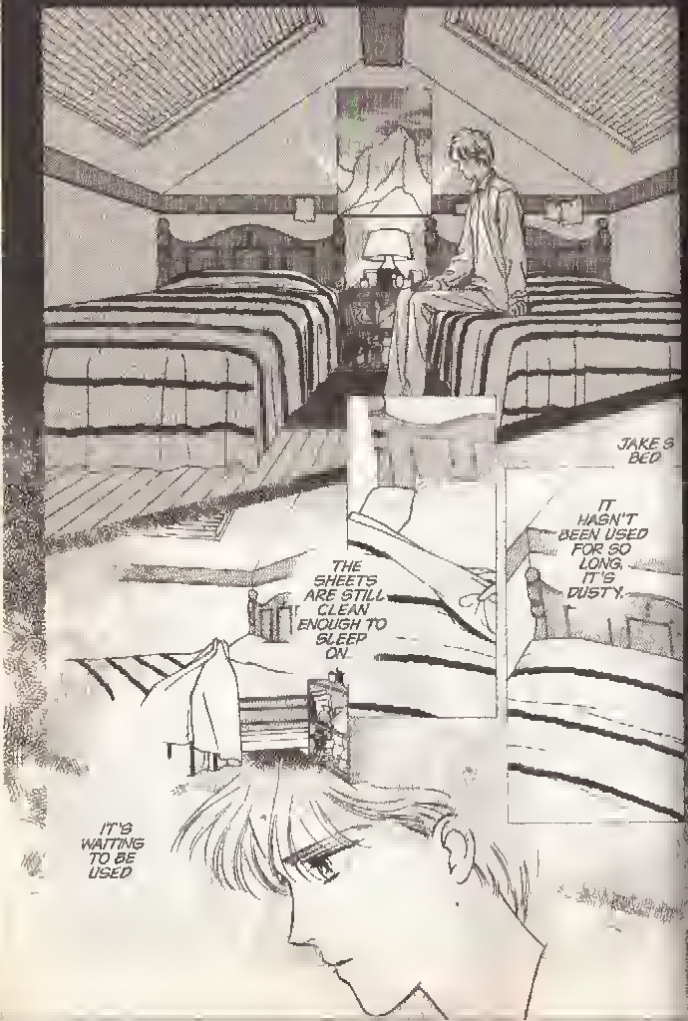

BUT SINCE I'M A GIRL...
IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT, ISN'T IT?
OH, HI, GUYS.
I'LL BE DONE IN JUST A BIT.
YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE THE COMPUTER CLUB TYPE.
YOU DON'T THINK SO?
IT'S THE INFORMATION AGE!
HE'S THE TYPE, ALL RIGHT.

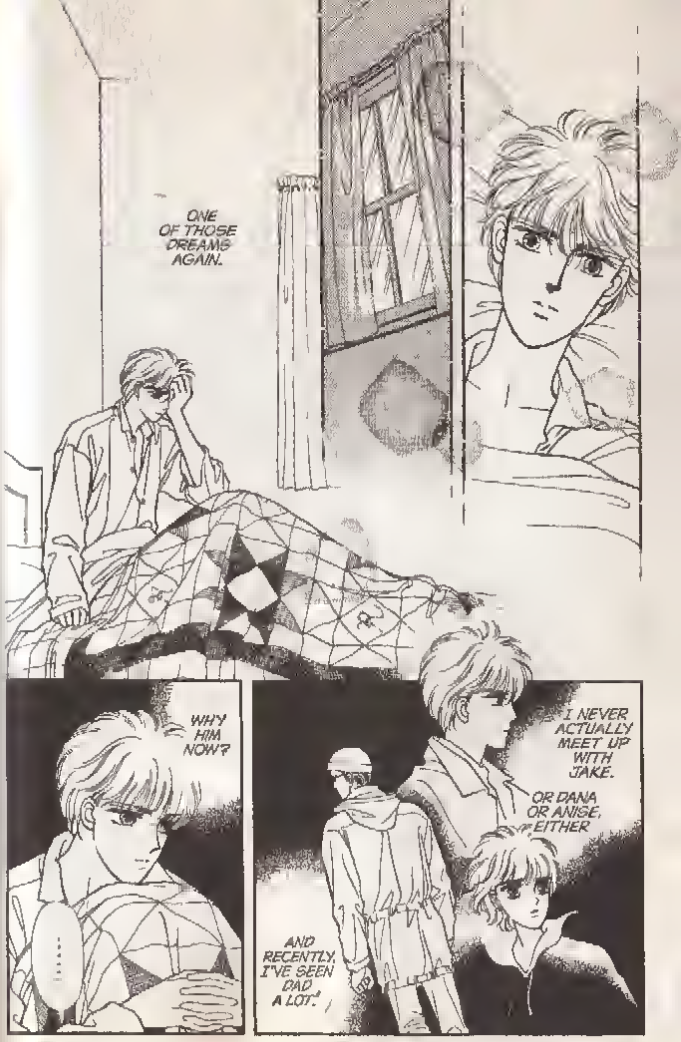

!!!
DOES THIS NETWORK THING GO NATION-WIDE?
SURE. IT GOES ALL OVER THE WORLD.
ANYONE ANYTIME CAN LOAD OR EXTRACT INFORMATION
CAN YOU SEARCH FOR CIPHER ON IT?
WELL.
...I CAN PRETEND I'M AN ORDINARY FAN AND TRY IT.
IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD JUST FIND OUT HOW HE IS.
DO IT!
TAP TAP TAP TAP


WHAT THE...?
I'M A BIG FAN OF CIPHER (ROY RANG).
IS IT TRUE HE'S WORKING IN L.A.?
TELL ME IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING.
--NEW YORK MOLLY.
DINNER'S READY, HAL.
OKAY.
17
SCRATCH SCRATCH


BEEEP
--L.A. HAL 9000
HE'S A LITTLE CLUELESS, BUT HE'S A GOOD GUY.
CIPHER IS WORKING IN L.A. I'VE MET HIM.
?
heh heh.
AFTER ALL...
We're having meatloaf.
HE'S MY ROOMMATE




JAKE'S BED
IT HASN'T BEEN USED FOR SO LONG. IT'S DUSTY.
THE SHEETS ARE STILL CLEAN ENOUGH TO SLEEP ON.
IT'S WAITING TO BE USED

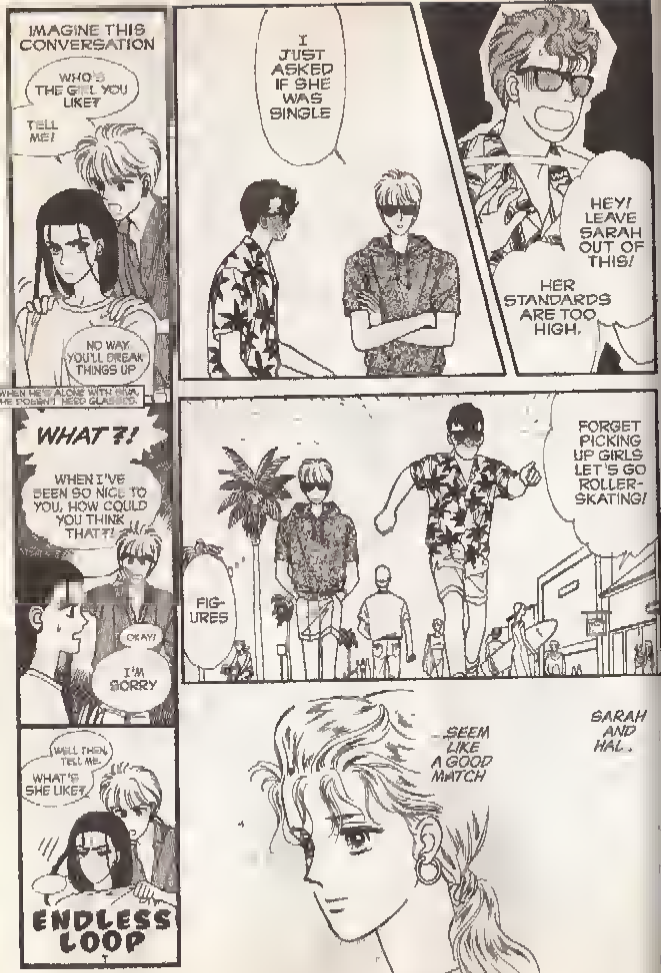

ONE OF THOSE DREAMS AGAIN.
WHY HIM NOW?
.....
I NEVER ACTUALLY MEET UP WITH JAKE.
OR DANA OR ANISE, EITHER.
AND RECENTLY, I'VE SEEN DAD A LOT.

RISE AND SHINE!
BAM
HOW LONG AM I GONNA KEEP HAVING THESE DREAMS?
TMP TMP
KACHAK
THE WEATHER IS GREAT! SO WE'RE GOING TO THE BEACH!
Aloha!
DOPPELGANGER
C'MON! IT'S THE WEEKEND! TIME TO PARTY!
Chill out okay?
WHAT FOR? TO SEE THE TOURISTS?

TO SEE THE GIRLS.
.....
LET'S GO.
AWRIGHT!

WOO HOO!
I BET YOU'RE GLAD YOU LIVE IN CALIFORNIA NOW, AREN'T YOU?
COOL POSE
THEY DIG ME.
. . .
YOU ARE, TOO, AREN'T YOU?

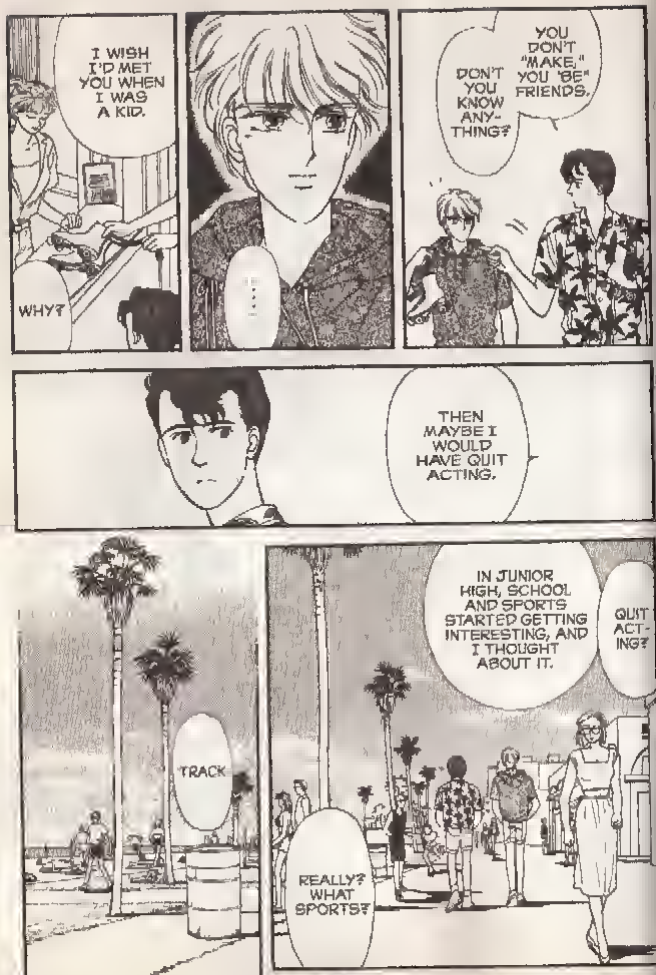
GIRLFRIEND
EH?
NOT ME.
I'VE GOT A GIRL-FRIEND
YOU'VE GOT A WHAT?!
GASP
TO HECK WITH JUST LOOKING. LET'S GO PICK UP SOME OF 'EM
YEAH. BACK IN NEW YORK.
IS SARAH SEEING ANYONE?
GULP!
...
BUT THAT'S SO FAR FROM HERE.
A HUMAN NEEDS A PARTNER CLOSE ENOUGH TO FEEL THEIR BODY WARMTH.

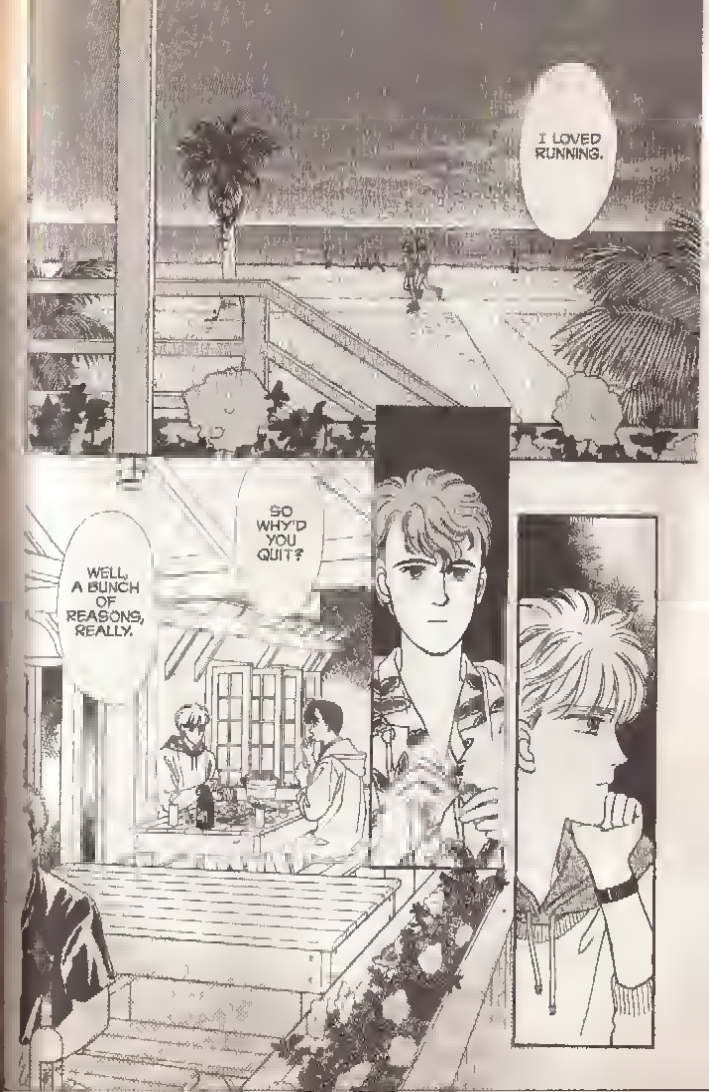

IMAGINE THIS CONVERSATION
WHO'S THE GIRL YOU LIKE?
TELL ME!
NO WAY. YOU'LL BREAK THINGS UP
WHEN HE'S ALONE WITH RISA, HE DOESN'T NEED GLASSES.
WHAT?!
WHEN I'VE BEEN SO NICE TO YOU, HOW COULD YOU THINK THAT?!
OKAY!
I'M SORRY
WELL THEN, TELL ME.
WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
ENDLESS LOOP
I JUST ASKED IF SHE WAS SINGLE
HEY! LEAVE SARAH OUT OF THIS!
HER STANDARDS ARE TOO HIGH.
FIG-URES
FORGET PICKING UP GIRLS LET'S GO ROLLER-SKATING!
SEEM LIKE A GOOD MATCH
SARAH AND HAL.

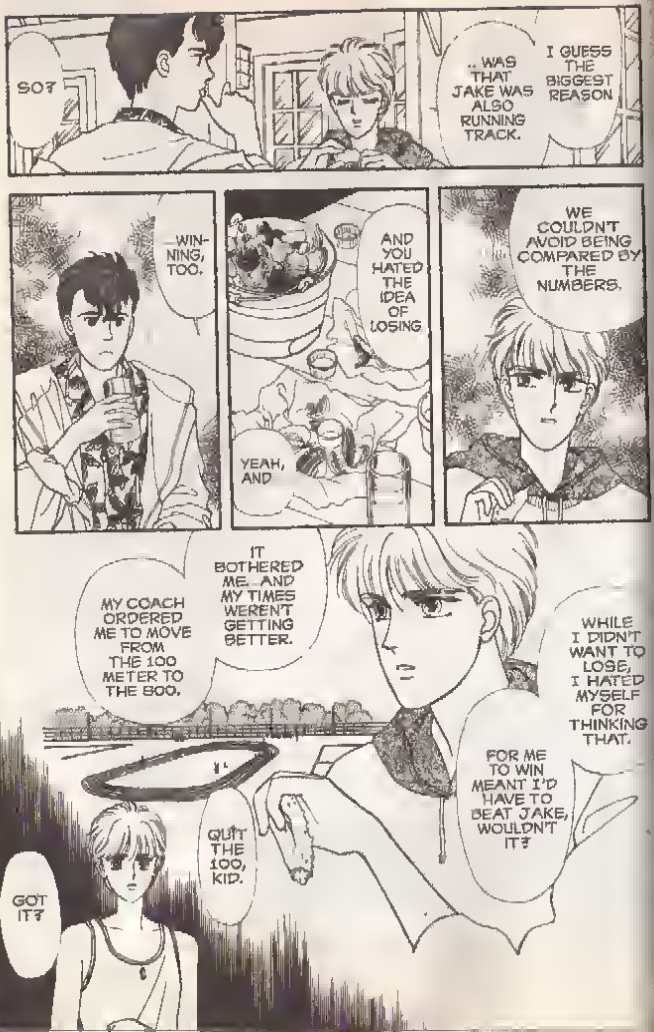
WOW! VOLLEYBALL! LET'S GO PLAY!
HE TIRES OF THINGS QUICKLY, BUT...
HAL LOOKS A LITTLE WACKY, BUT HE CAN HANDLE THINGS PRETTY WELL.
COMPARED TO HOW LAID-BACK SARAH IS...
WAVE WAVE
CAN WE PLAY, TOO?
HEY!
IT'S BORING TO PLAY BY OURSELVES.
Yah
YOU CAN GO ONE ON EACH SIDE.
GREAT! THANKS!
TOTAL STRANGERS
SURE! COME ON!
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
LET'S GO. THEY'RE CALLING US.
Arabesque

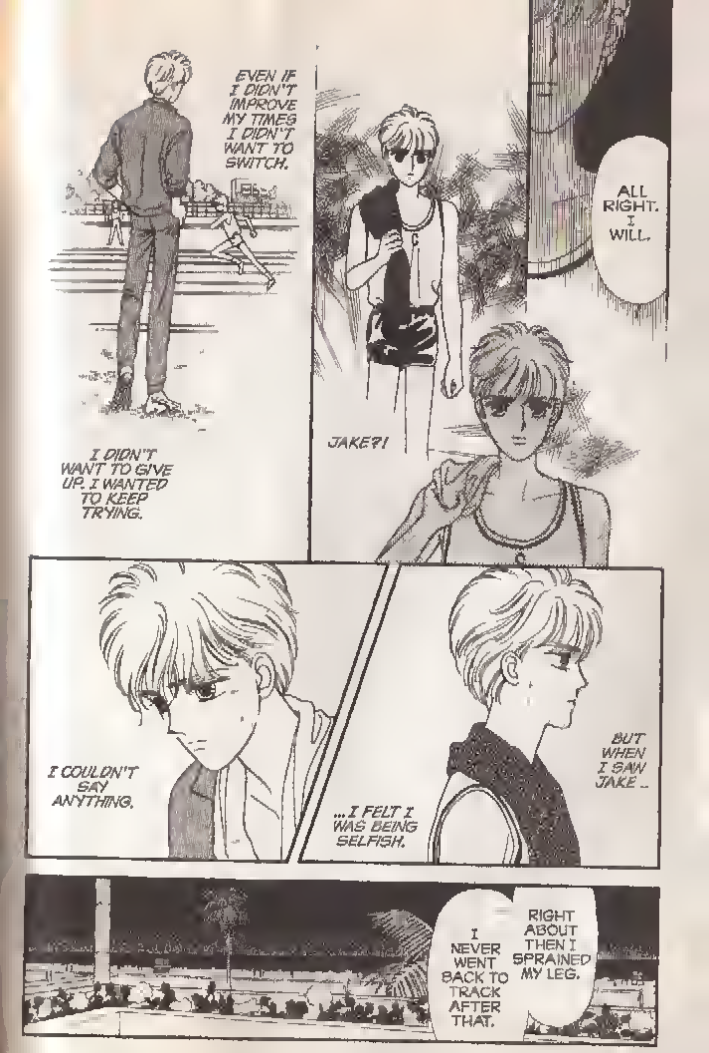
BEACH BALLET
UFF!
Way too funny.
CHECK THAT OUT!
THAT DUDE'S FUNNY!
BWA
HA
HA
MAN, I'M BEAT!
BUT THAT WAS FUN.

SEE YOU NEXT TIME
COOL!
I'M ROY.
I'M HAL.
MY NAME'S BOB
WE PLAY HERE EVERY WEEKEND, SO COME BACK AGAIN.
THANKS WE'LL DEFINITELY COME BACK.
WHAT?
OH... NOTHING
NOW...
LET'S GET SOMETHING TO EAT.
I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS NEAT...
...HOW YOU COULD MAKE FRIENDS JUST LIKE THAT!

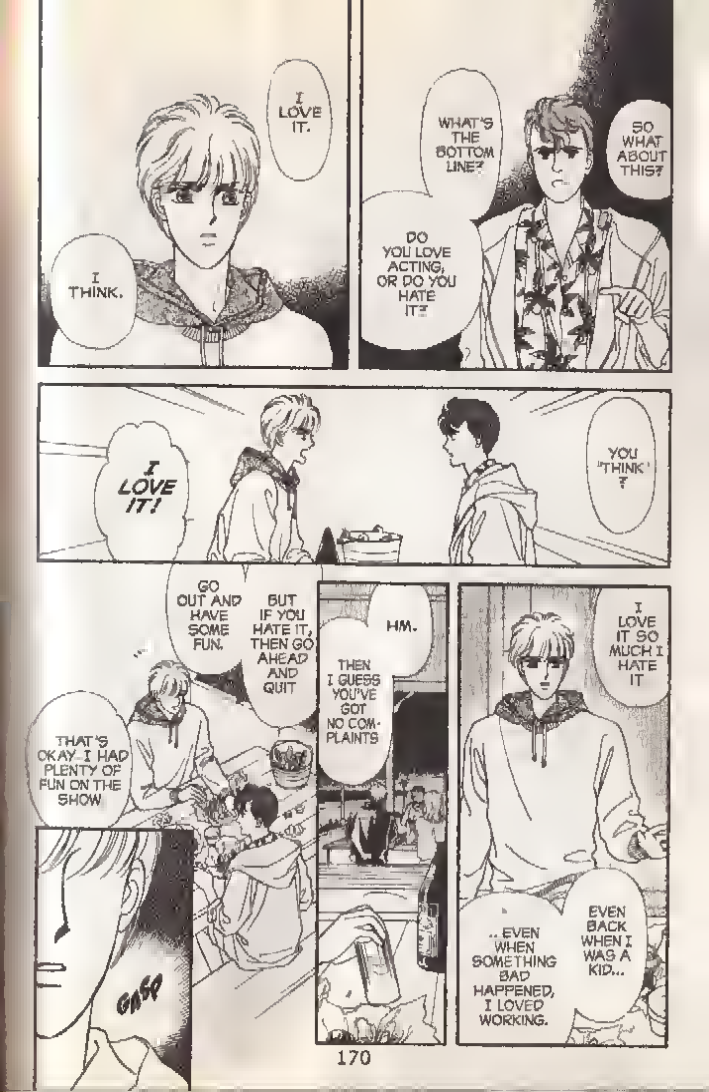

I WISH I'D MET YOU WHEN I WAS A KID.
WHY?
...
YOU DON'T "MAKE," YOU "BE" FRIENDS.
DON'T YOU KNOW ANY-THING?
THEN MAYBE I WOULD HAVE QUIT ACTING.
IN JUNIOR HIGH, SCHOOL AND SPORTS STARTED GETTING INTERESTING, AND I THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
QUIT ACT-ING?
REALLY? WHAT SPORTS?
TRACK

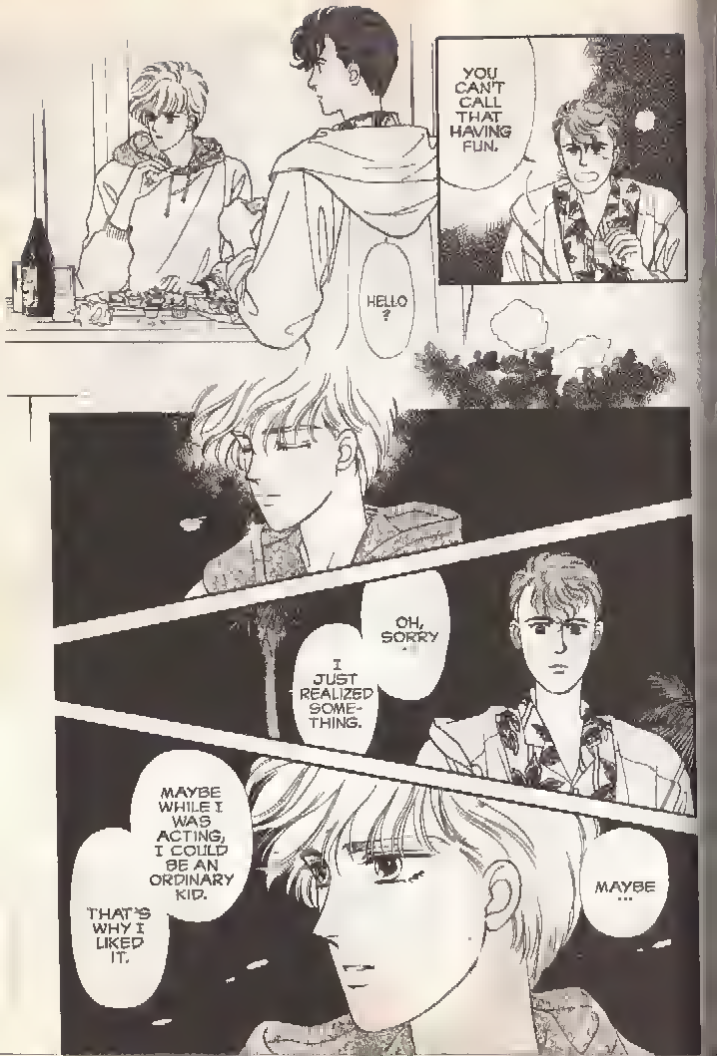

I LOVED RUNNING.
SO WHY'D YOU QUIT?
WELL, A BUNCH OF REASONS, REALLY.


SO?
..WAS THAT JAKE WAS ALSO RUNNING TRACK.
I GUESS THE BIGGEST REASON
-WIN-NING, TOO.
AND YOU HATED THE IDEA OF LOSING
YEAH, AND
WE COULDN'T AVOID BEING COMPARED BY THE NUMBERS.
MY COACH ORDERED ME TO MOVE FROM THE 100 METER TO THE 800.
IT BOTHERED ME. AND MY TIMES WEREN'T GETTING BETTER.
WHILE I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE, I HATED MYSELF FOR THINKING THAT.
FOR ME TO WIN MEANT I'D HAVE TO BEAT JAKE, WOULDN'T IT?
QUIT THE 100, KID.
GOT IT?

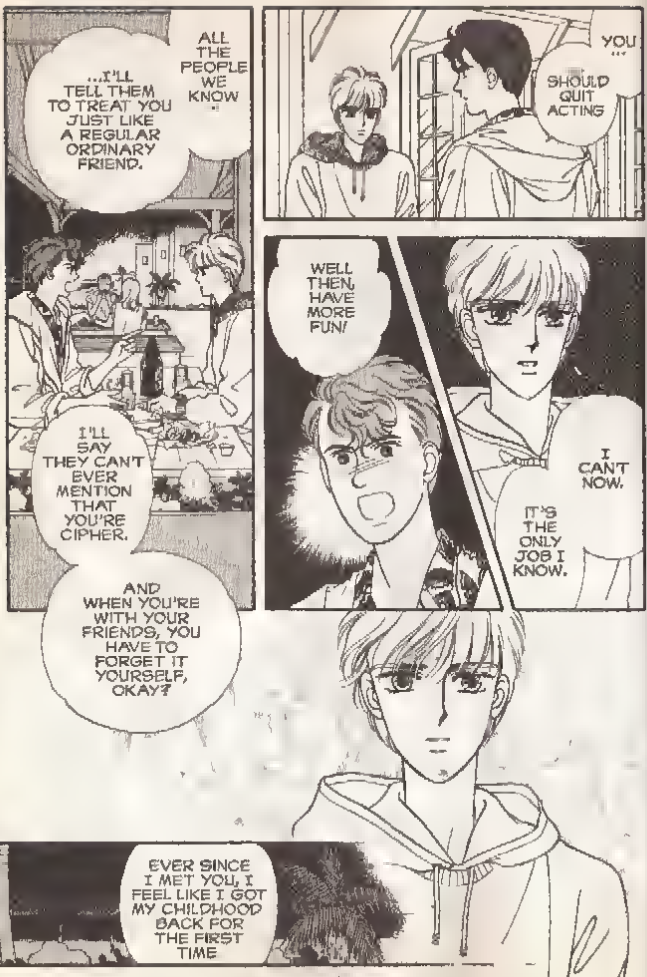

EVEN IF I DIDN'T IMPROVE MY TIMES I DIDN'T WANT TO SWITCH.
I DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE UP. I WANTED TO KEEP TRYING.
ALL RIGHT. I WILL.
JAKE?!
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
...I FELT I WAS BEING SELFISH.
BUT WHEN I SAW JAKE...
RIGHT ABOUT THEN I SPRAINED MY LEG.
I NEVER WENT BACK TO TRACK AFTER THAT.

THAT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN RUNNING
FORTUNATELY, WE'RE DIFFERENT KINDS OF ACTORS.
WE EACH HAD OUR OWN SEPARATE OBJECTIVES
BUT ACTING
...YOUR BROTHER DID THAT, TOO. WASN'T THAT A COMPETITION?
YEAH, I GUESS.
YOU WERE ALWAYS OVER-CONSCIOUS OF YOUR BROTHER
YOU LIKE IT BETTER THAN RUNNING?
RECENTLY WHEN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD...
...YOU SAID YOU HATED THE IDEA OF LOOKING LIKE YOU BACKED DOWN SO YOU STUCK WITH IT, RIGHT?
KTK

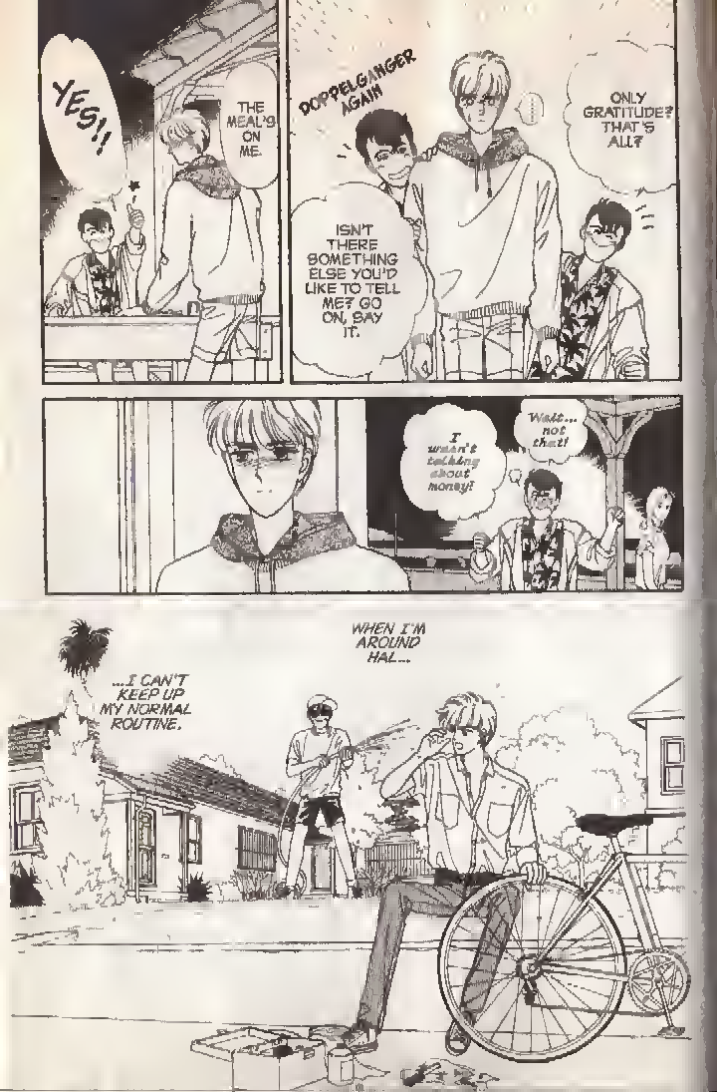

I LOVE IT.
I THINK.
SO WHAT ABOUT THIS?
WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?
DO YOU LOVE ACTING, OR DO YOU HATE IT?
I LOVE IT!
YOU "THINK"?
I LOVE IT SO MUCH I HATE IT
EVEN BACK WHEN I WAS A KID...
.. EVEN WHEN SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED, I LOVED WORKING.
HM.
THEN I GUESS YOU'VE GOT NO COMPLAINTS
GO OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN.
BUT IF YOU HATE IT, THEN GO AHEAD AND QUIT
THAT'S OKAY. I HAD PLENTY OF FUN ON THE SHOW
GASP

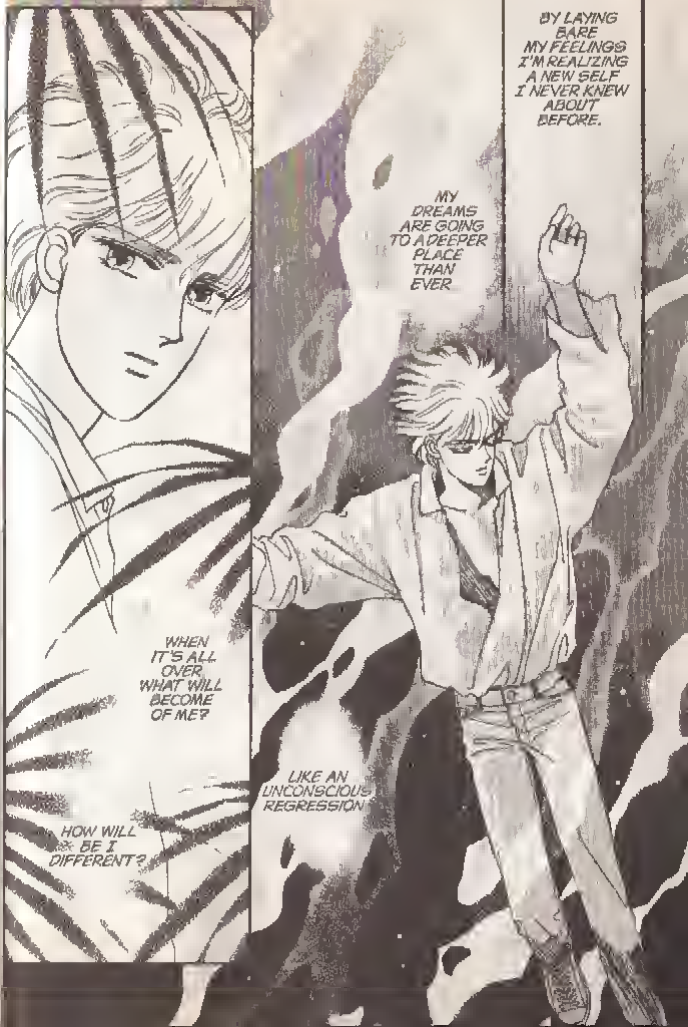

YOU CAN'T CALL THAT HAVING FUN.
HELLO ?
OH, SORRY
I JUST REALIZED SOME-THING.
MAYBE WHILE I WAS ACTING, I COULD BE AN ORDINARY KID.
THAT'S WHY I LIKED IT.
MAYBE ...

THAT'S A CONTRA DICTION
BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.
AND EVEN AFTER-WARD'S...
WHAT WITH JEAN, AND DAD'S THING, AND THE SHARING AN IDENTITY
IT FELT MORE FREE TO BE ACTING.
...IT WAS ALWAYS HAPPIER TO BE INSIDE THE SHOW.


ALL THE PEOPLE WE KNOW...
...I'LL TELL THEM TO TREAT YOU JUST LIKE A REGULAR ORDINARY FRIEND.
I'LL SAY THEY CAN'T EVER MENTION THAT YOU'RE CIPHER.
AND WHEN YOU'RE WITH YOUR FRIENDS, YOU HAVE TO FORGET IT YOURSELF, OKAY?
YOU... SHOULD QUIT ACTING
WELL THEN, HAVE MORE FUN!
I CAN'T NOW.
IT'S THE ONLY JOB I KNOW.
EVER SINCE I MET YOU, I FEEL LIKE I GOT MY CHILDHOOD BACK FOR THE FIRST TIME

I'M GRATEFUL.
UH...
ULP!
JUST GRATI-TUDE?
I REALLY MEAN IT.
WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
GIMME A BREAK, YOU DUMMY

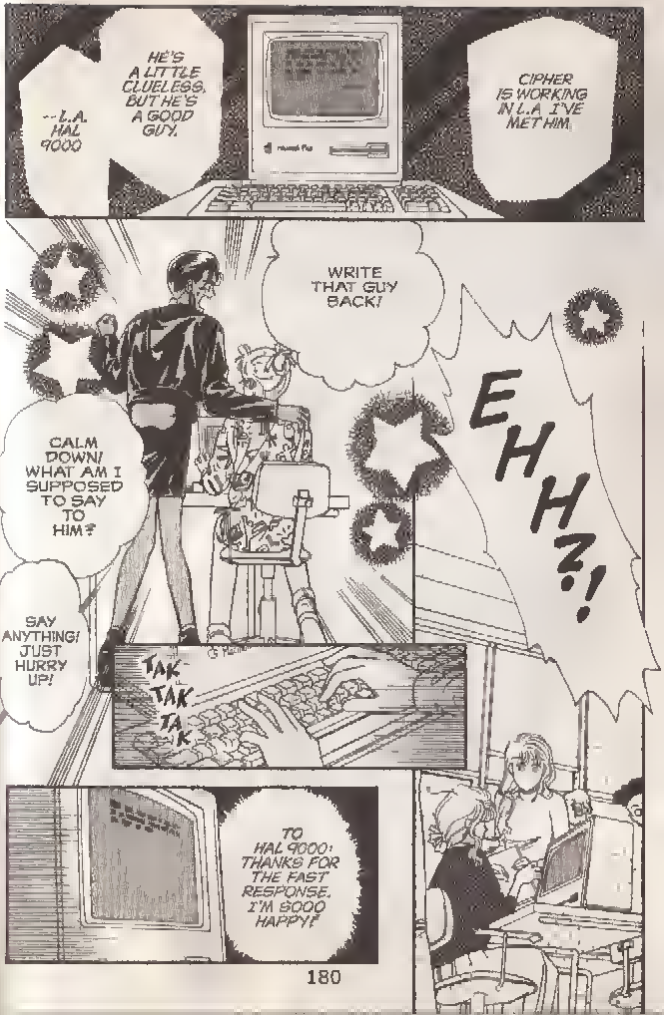

YES!!
THE MEAL'S ON ME.
DOPPELGANGER AGAIN
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME? GO ON, SAY IT.
ONLY GRATITUDE? THAT'S ALL?
I wasn't talking about money!
Wait... not that!
WHEN I'M AROUND HAL...
...I CAN'T KEEP UP MY NORMAL ROUTINE.

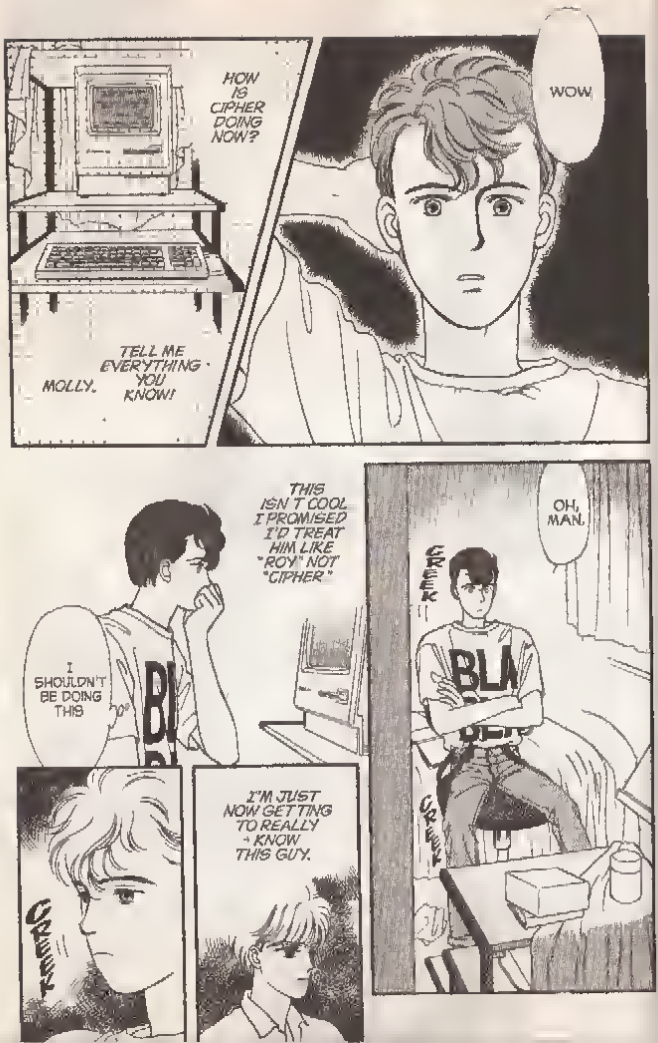

BY LAYING BARE MY FEELINGS I'M REALIZING A NEW SELF I NEVER KNEW ABOUT BEFORE.
MY DREAMS ARE GOING TO A DEEPER PLACE THAN EVER
WHEN IT'S ALL OVER WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME?
LIKE AN UNCONSCIOUS REGRESSION
HOW WILL BE I DIFFERENT?

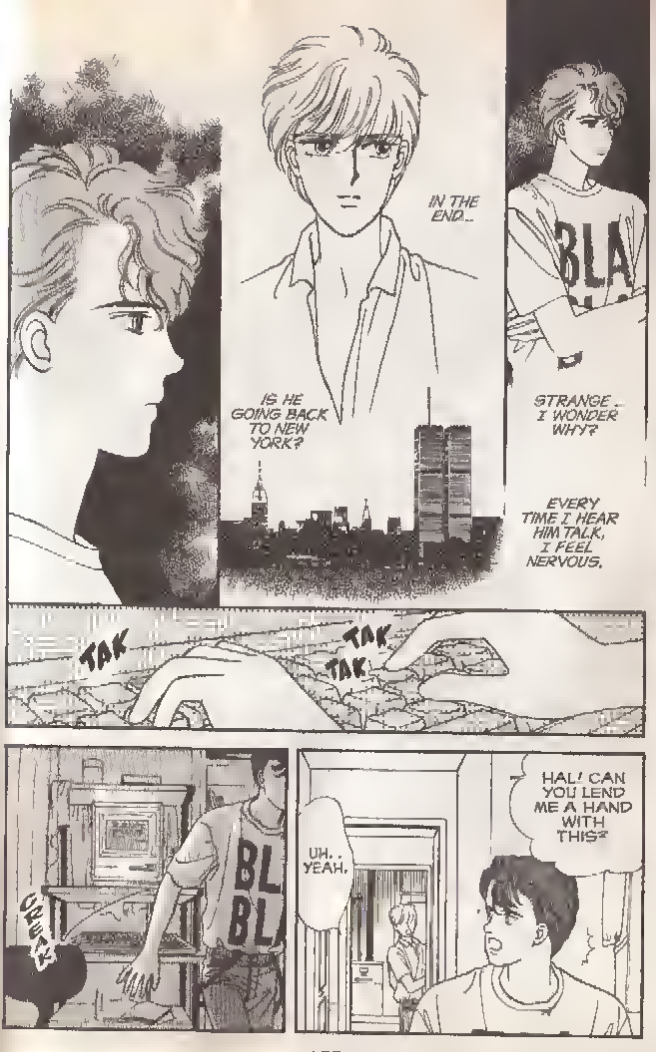
AND SOON!
I CAN'T JUST STAY LIKE THIS. I'VE GOT TO RECOVER MY BALANCE.

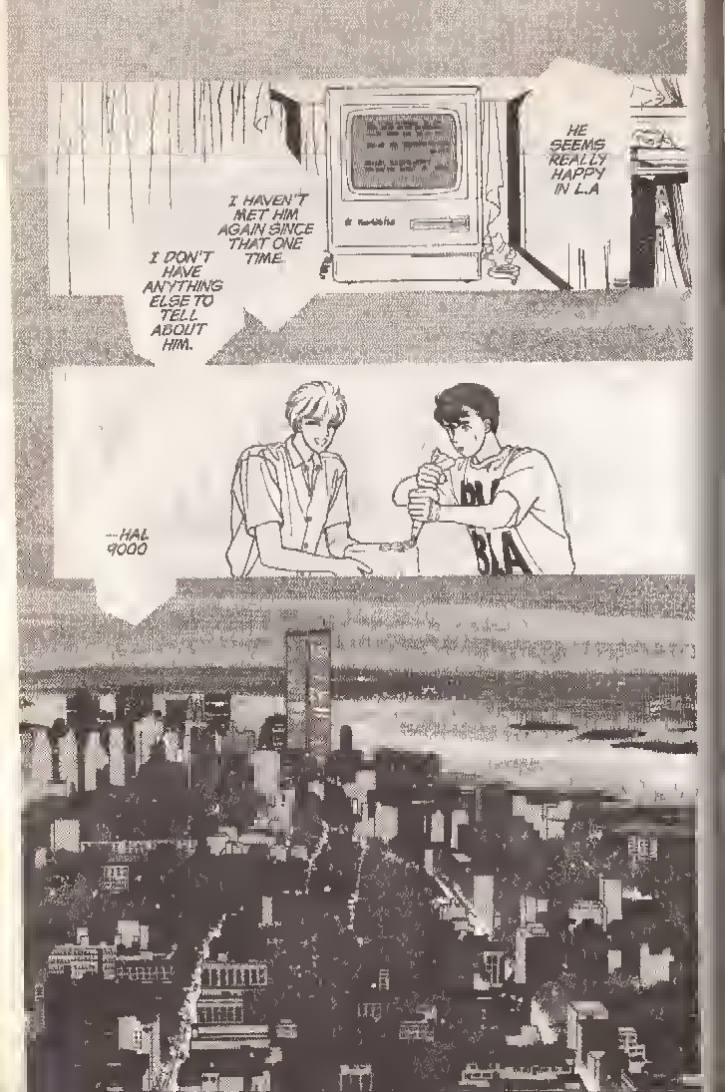
HEY, ANISE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER THIS?
WELL, THAT'S AN IMPROVEMENT, ISN'T IT?
I GUESS ANYWAY, I BETTER GO.
IT'S BEEN WEIRD THESE LAST FEW DAYS.
WHETHER HE'S CALM OR ENERGETIC, SIVA'S HAD A STRANGE AURA AROUND HIM
I'M GOING TO SIVA'S.
HE INVITED ME OVER.
WOW! IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

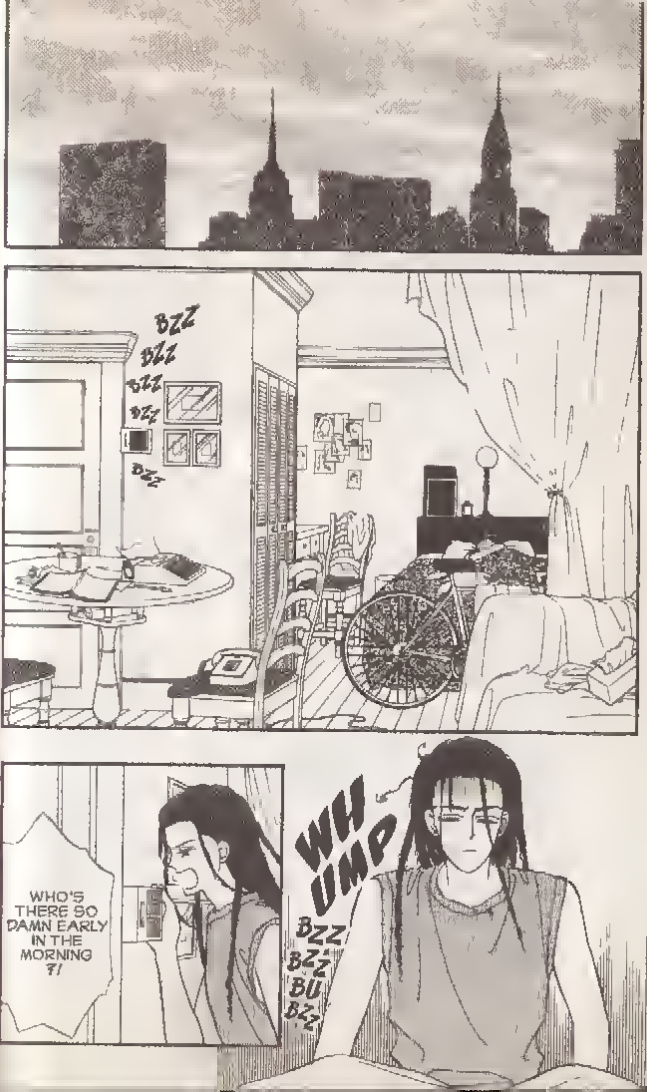
WANT TO GO CHECK THE COMPUTER?
YEAH, LET'S.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I DON'T KNOW
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
HANG IN THERE, ANISE!
THANKS
TAK TAK
OH MY...!

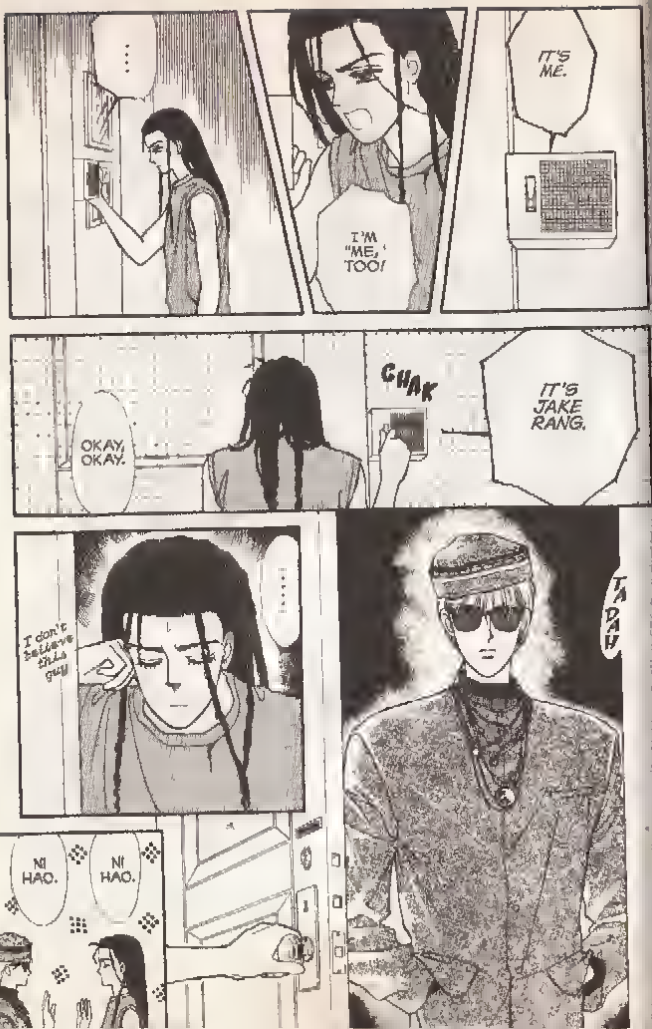

--L.A. HAL 9000
HE'S A LITTLE CLUELESS, BUT HE'S A GOOD GUY.
CIPHER IS WORKING IN L.A. I'VE MET HIM.
WRITE THAT GUY BACK!
EHH?!
CALM DOWN! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO HIM?
SAY ANYTHING! JUST HURRY UP!
TAK TAK TAK
TO HAL 9000: THANKS FOR THE FAST RESPONSE. I'M 9000 HAPPY!


HOW IS CIPHER DOING NOW?
MOLLY.
TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW!
WOW.
OH, MAN.
CREEK
CREAK
THIS ISN'T COOL I PROMISED I'D TREAT HIM LIKE "ROY" NOT "CIPHER."
I SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS
I'M JUST NOW GETTING TO REALLY KNOW THIS GUY.
CRUNCH


IN THE END...
IS HE GOING BACK TO NEW YORK?
STRANGE... I WONDER WHY?
EVERY TIME I HEAR HIM TALK, I FEEL NERVOUS.
TAK
TAK
TAK
CREAK
HAL! CAN YOU LEND ME A HAND WITH THIS?
UH.. YEAH.


HE SEEMS REALLY HAPPY IN L.A
I HAVEN'T MET HIM AGAIN SINCE THAT ONE TIME.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO TELL ABOUT HIM.
--HAL 9000


BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
WHO'S THERE SO DAMN EARLY IN THE MORNING ?!
WH
UMP
BZZ
BZZ
BU
BZZ


. . . .
I'M "ME," TOO!
IT'S ME.
OKAY, OKAY.
CHAK
IT'S JAKE RANG.
I don't believe this guy
. . . . . .
TADAH
NI HAO.
NI HAO.

YOU HAVE YOUR DOG-WALKING JOB THIS MORNING, RIGHT?
YOU PROMISED I COULD COME WITH YOU
OH, YEAH.
IT'S ALREADY FIVE-THIRTY. THE SUN'S UP
BA TAN
DO ALL INDIANS GET UP THIS EARLY? IT'S ONLY FIVE-THIRTY.
NO!
TODAY I'M INDIAN, NOT CHINESE!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A DOG SINCE I WAS A KID.
THE JOB DOESN'T START UNTIL SEVEN-THIRTY
BUT... WHY?
'NIGHT.
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT SO MUCH, I WOKE UP EARLY.

Now I can't sleep.
Last night, I read all about dogs.
RECENTLY I'VE BEEN REALLY SELFISH AROUND LEVINE. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS.
SHAKE SHAKE
UGH
I'M AWAKE, SO YOU SHOULD BE, TOO!
DAM-MIT
I'LL PUT MAKE-UP ON YOU IF YOU DON'T
WHY DID SIVA BRING THIS WITH HIM? ↑
I DO IT TO MAKE HIM FEEL LIKE HE CAN BE HIS ORDINARY SELF AROUND ME.
Let me see
My dog sometimes doesn't handle strangers very well. Is that all right?
EVERY TIME I HOOK UP WITH HIM I SURPRISE HIM, SO IT'S LIKE WE'RE MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME

TWITCH
NICE DOGGIE!
WHAT A CUTE PUPPY.
!
AGH
SCARY
How he looks to the dog
...LITTLE PUPPY.
...VERY CUTE...
WHAT A VERY...

A WEAKER MALE SHOWS SUBMISSION TO A STRONGER MALE BY EXPOSING HIS NECK AND STOMACH.

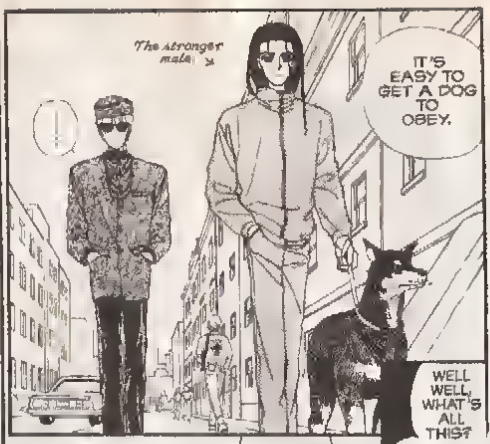
ROLL

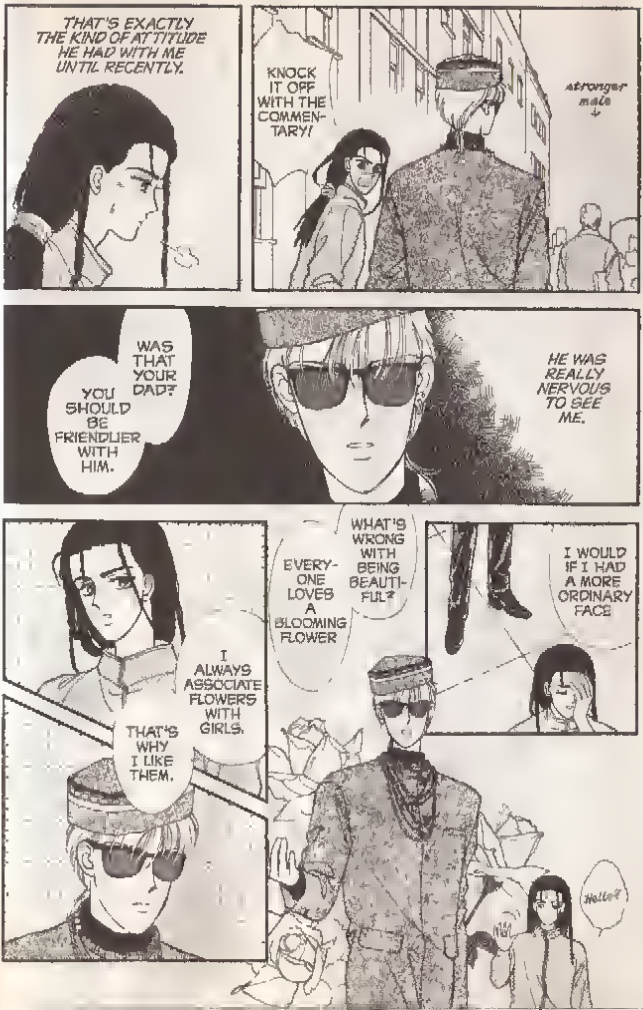
SHIVER
SHIVER

TERENCE TRENT D'ARBY
N.F.N.F

HE HAS NO INTEREST IN SINGING PERFECTLY OR WRITING PERFECT SONGS. HE'S GOT A FRESH SOUND THAT DOESN'T FIT ANY PATTERN, AND MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I LISTENED THROUGH HEADPHONES WITH MY EYES CLOSED, BUT I FELT HE WAS SINGING THERE IN THE SAME ROOM WITH ME. AFTER HEARING HIS WICKED LAUGH, I FELT THAT IF HE DIED, I'D BE SAD TO REMEMBER HIM LIKE THIS WHEN I WAS DONE LISTENING, I WAS LEFT NOT WITH THE MUSIC OR THE MUSICIAN BUT WITH TERENCE THE PERSON. THAT'S MY PERSONAL IMPRESSION OF THIS RECORD

IN MY HEAD, HE'S SAYING 'UNFORTUNATELY I'M NOT IMPORTANT TO YOU BUT THAT'S NOT HOW I WANT TO BE THOUGHT OF. ACTUALLY, I THINK HE WANTS TO BE IMPORTANT TO SOMEBODY. BY LETTING ALL THE FANS HEAR THIS ALBUM IT'S HIS WAY OF SAYING "YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT PERSON TO ME." HE'S SO MEAN!




THAT'S EXACTLY THE KIND OF ATTITUDE HE HAD WITH ME UNTIL RECENTLY.
KNOCK IT OFF WITH THE COMMEN-TARY!
stronger male
WAS THAT YOUR DAD?
YOU SHOULD BE FRIENDLIER WITH HIM.
HE WAS REALLY NERVOUS TO SEE ME.
I ALWAYS ASSOCIATE FLOWERS WITH GIRLS.
THAT'S WHY I LIKE THEM.
EVERY-ONE LOVES A BLOOMING FLOWER
WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING BEAUTI-FUL?
I WOULD IF I HAD A MORE ORDINARY FACE
Hello?

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
YEAH, I LOVE GIRLS!
UH SO...
YOU LIKE GIRLS?
Smacked
I GUESS HIS FACE FOOLED ME, TOO.
EVERYONE LOOKS AT MY FACE FIRST.
THAT'S WHAT BOTHERS ME.
!
PUT THESE ON.
YEAH!
THAT CHANGES YOUR WHOLE LOOK.

I WAS AFRAID I'D GET ATTACHED TO THEM, SO I NEVER STARTED WEARING THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE.
KEEP THOSE ON FOR A WHILE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
THEY'RE SHEEP-HERDING DOGS. I KNOW THIS BREED.
WOW
SHEEPHERDERS! THEY LEAD AND WATCH SHEEP AND COWS.
2nd DOG
HEY!
GET BACK HERE, YOU IDIOT!
PLEASE LET THEM OUT TO PLAY.
WHO'S HERDING WHO?
DON'T TAKE A DUMP OVER THERE, YOU MISERABLE MUTT!
WATCH OUT! THAT'S DANGEROUS!

I THINK THAT YOU'RE JUST TOO COLD.
HUFF
HUFF
YOU SURE GET ANGRY A LOT.
OR MAYBE YOU HAVE MOOD SWINGS.
FINALLY GOT THEM ALL IN THE CRATE.
Stop licking me!
HE'S LOOKING MORE LIKE A REGULAR GUY.
NO MATTER WHAT HE SAYS, HE LIKES DOGS.
IT LOOKS TIRING, WATCHING YOU DO IT.
YOU SHOULD SHOW MORE EMOTION
OH, AND HOLDING IT IN IS BETTER?
DO YOU REMEMBER DROPPING THAT?
hm?

A BABY SPARROW?
SIVA! LONG TIME NO SEE!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE GRADUATION?
RING RING
A CHICK SHE FED BIRD FOOD TO DIED.
HUH? WHAT ABOUT BIRD FOOD?
It's eating bread
SHE SAID THEY LIKE WORMS THE BEST. GIVE IT ONE EVERY TIME IT CHIRPS.
CHEEP CHEEP
OKAY, I SEE
CHEEP CHEEP
CHEEP CHEEP
IF I HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS, I'LL CALL YOU.
THANKS
THE AMERICAN BOYS HANDY BOOK

SHE DIDN'T REALLY TALK ABOUT HERSELF.
HUH? OH...
DID SHE SOUND OKAY?
CAN'T GET THERE UNLESS YOU CAN FLY.
On top of that lamppost.
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST PUT IT BACK IN THE NEST WHEN THE MOTHER ISN'T AROUND
I CAN IMAGINE WHERE THE NEST MUST BE.
SHE SAYS IF WE LEAVE IT IN A BASKET NEAR WHERE WE FOUND IT THE MOTHER WILL BRING IT FOOD.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. WE DON'T KNOW ANYBODY WHO LIVES AROUND THERE.
IF YOU JUST PUT IT BACK WHERE YOU FOUND IT, NOBODY WILL BLAME YOU
LEVINE.
THEN I GUESS I BETTER GO GET MORE WORMS.

LOOK, LEVINE
IT'S THE LAW OF NATURE IF SOMEONE HERE GETS THROWN AWAY, TOO!
IT'S THE LAW OF NATURE--IF A CHICK FALLS OUT OF THE NEST, IT DIES
NO WAY I COULD DO THAT!
WOULD YOU JUST ABANDON THEM?
IF SOMEONE DOESN'T LIVE UP TO YOUR DEALS...
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
AND IT WOULD BE RUDE TO THEM, TOO.
BUT I MIGHT NOT STAY AROUND THEM MUCH.
I DON'T LIKE FEELING LIKE I'M LOOKING DOWN ON SOME-ONE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE KIND WHO SAYS NICE THINGS TO SOMEONE'S FACE AND TALKS TRASH BEHIND THEIR BACK.

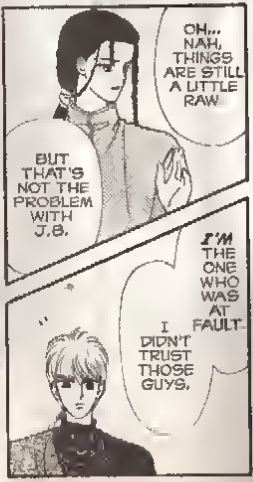
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THIS NOW?

THAT'S NOBLE OF YOU. MOST PEOPLE HAVE NO PROBLEM DOING THAT.

DID YOU PATCH THINGS UP WITH J.B. AND HIS GUYS?

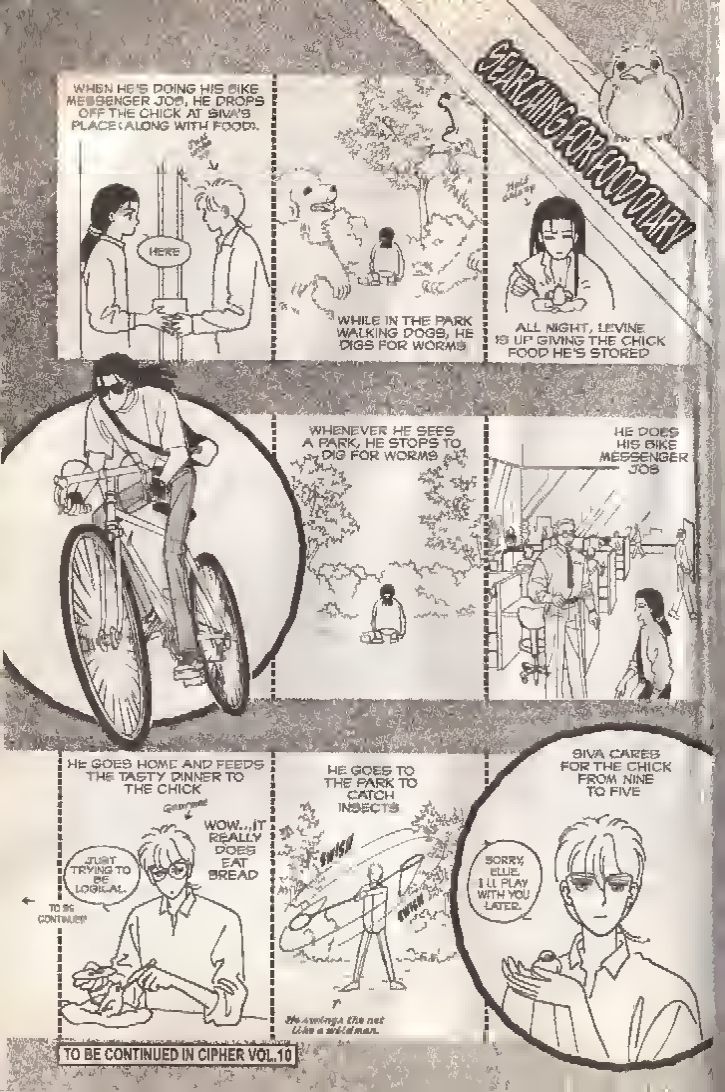
I COULD TELL YOU THE SAME THING.

THEN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. YOU DON'T WANT THINGS TO STAY THIS WAY, DO YOU?


OH... NAH, THINGS ARE STILL A LITTLE RAW. BUT THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM WITH J.B. I'M THE ONE WHO WAS AT FAULT. I DIDN'T TRUST THOSE GUYS.

!
HEY.
WANT TO HANG OUT THIS WEEKEND?
I'LL BE BUSY DIGGING WORMS.
I'LL GET IT SOME FOOD.
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
THEN LET ME HELP YOU.

SEARCHING FOR FOOD DIARY


WHEN HE'S DOING HIS BIKE MESSENGER JOB, HE DROPS OFF THE CHICK AT SIVA'S PLACE; ALONG WITH FOOD.
HERE
WHILE IN THE PARK WALKING DOGS, HE DIGS FOR WORMS
ALL NIGHT, LEVINE IS UP GIVING THE CHICK FOOD HE'S STORED
WHENEVER HE SEES A PARK, HE STOPS TO DIG FOR WORMS
HE DOES HIS BIKE MESSENGER JOB
HE GOES HOME AND FEEDS THE TASTY DINNER TO THE CHICK
Gourmet
JUST TRYING TO BE LOGICAL.
WOW...IT REALLY DOES EAT BREAD
TO BE CONTINUED
HE GOES TO THE PARK TO CATCH INSECTS
SWISH!
SWISH
He swings the net like a wild man.
SIVA CARES FOR THE CHICK FROM NINE TO FIVE
SORRY, ELLIE. I'LL PLAY WITH YOU LATER.

TO BE CONTINUED IN CIPHER VOL. 10

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ANISE SHOCKS SIVA WITH A BOLD REQUEST! FIND OUT WHAT IT IS IN JANUARY!

By Mineko Narita. Siva's memories of Dana's accidental death make him concerned about Alex's job as a bike messenger, hurtling through dangerous city traffic. Then when Siva meets an old enemy from Cipher's drug-using past, Alex begins to suspect the truth about how the twins used to switch identities. Later, Anise has a really big favor to ask of Siva. When he won't agree to her request, she decides that it's time to fly to L.A. and bring back Cipher!

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